

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



50 Industrial Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 622-0217

Fax: (207) 622-1513  
Email: [mpa@mpa.cc](mailto:mpa@mpa.cc)

Websites:  
<https://mpaprof.org>  
<https://mpa.cc>

**Lori Smail**  
Winthrop Middle  
School  
President

**Mary Nadeau**  
Nokomis Regional High  
School  
President-elect

**Michael R. Burnham**  
Executive Director  
Interscholastic Division

**Holly D. Blair**  
Executive Director  
Professional Division

**Michael G. Bisson**  
Assistant Director

*MPA is an Equal  
Opportunity Organization*

**TO:** Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
**FROM:** Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee  
**RE:** Neither For Nor Against LD 1799: An Act to Expand Maine's High Quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities  
**DATE:** May 10, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 800 PreK-12 principals, assistant principals, CTE directors and assistant directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 1799. We support the Department of Education providing a report every February on the progress of preschool expectations. The timeline that is suggested would be helpful to school districts around the state so they know what to expect and will have the ability to budget accordingly. Finally, we support the creation of a stakeholder group for both the potential expansion to full day preschool programs as well as certification that will be necessary to provide this level of education.

The concerns we have with the bill are focused on the definition of "under 5." We do not know if this includes just ages 4, ages 3-4, or birth to five. We are equally concerned with getting input from the children. Under the age of 5, we are not sure what type of input would be helpful to the process of supporting the intentions of this bill. Finally, we are concerned that all of the stakeholders who are identified are appointed by the government with only one educator present.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither for Nor Against LD 1799.