

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*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 2001: An Act to Establish the African American Studies Advisory Council and Require Funding for African American Studies
DATE: January 11, 2024

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 and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 2001. We agree to the creation of an African American Studies Advisory Council and funding it is very important to providing additional resources to Maine schools. We would strongly encourage having an administrator sit on this council in addition to the positions listed in the bill. A building administrator would be able to provide an additional voice to the implementation of African American studies in the schools.

We do have a significant concern with the requirement of an audit to take place every two years. Although we recognize that the audit would be at the discretion of the individual school unit, there is no guarantee that the audits themselves would be equitable. In addition to this, an audit is not required for any other content area, and we do not believe one should be required for African American studies in Maine schools.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither for Nor Against LD 2001.