

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal  
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**TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**  
**FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee**  
**RE: In Support of LD 2002: An Act to Provide Incentives to Schools That Contract for Certain Social Work and Family Therapy Services**  
**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, assistant principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee supports the passing of LD 2002. Maine schools collectively do not have enough staff, or the resources to hire social work and family therapists. Because of this many schools already contract with outside services to try and meet the needs of their students. The passing of 2002 could further support those schools who contract for these social work and family therapy services by offering them a grant to offset or pay the costs that are incurred. This could also support schools who currently cannot afford to contract these services by giving them the resources and meet the mental health needs of their students.

While the MPA Legislative Committee does not typically support bills that are based on grants, the need for mental health support is tremendous in our state and any help that any school can receive is vital. It is our hope that the criteria for the grants is such that many schools who truly need this resource has an equal opportunity to access the funds.

The MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass LD 2002.