

**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: In Support of LD 2107: An Act Regarding Department of Education Reliance on Criminal Background Checks Required by the Department of Health and Human Services
DATE: January 24, 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 unanimously supports the passing of LD 2107. We support actions by the legislature that make the process easier for people who have completed their background check by another State of Maine Government Agency to be accepted by the Department of Education. If someone has passed a background check by another state agency, they should not have to have another background check completed to work in Maine schools. The additional cost and time that is incurred by having a duplicate background check has deterred people from entering the profession in the past and we are concerned that should this bill not pass, will continue to deter others in the future.

The MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2107.