

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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

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

Website:
<http://www.mpa.cc>

Paula Callan
Messalonskee
High School
President

Lori Smail
Ames and Weymouth
Elementary Schools
President-elect

Michael R. Burnham
Executive Director
Interscholastic Division

Holly D. Couturier
Executive Director
Professional Division

Michael G. Bisson
Assistant Director

*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Committee on Labor and Housing
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: In Support of LD 734: An Act to Set a Minimum Wage
for School Support Staff**
DATE: April 12, 2021

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Dr. Holly Couturier and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. We represent more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee supports LD 734. There are many hourly employees working in Maine schools who earn less than \$16/hour. These people go above and beyond to make sure that the schools' and students' needs are met and rarely, if ever, say no when more is asked of them. This bill will ensure that those hourly employees who are not at \$16/hour by June 30, 2022 will be able to then get the raise that they undoubtedly deserve to better support themselves and their families. Our concern is the one-time funding of the difference in what those individuals may be earning and \$16. We are concerned about the financial impact that this could potentially have on districts for future years as well as on the impact for other employees of the district.

However, these hourly employees deserve to be paid a livable wage and because of this, the MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD 734.