

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
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TO: Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 13: An Act to Provide Funds Necessary for the Production and Delivery of Election Materials by the Secretary of State and to Reconvene the Working Group to Student Polling Places at Schools
DATE: January 27, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Committee on the Veterans and Legal 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 700 PreK-12 Principals and Assistant Principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors, and Athletic Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 13. Our testimony will not address the funds necessary for the production of delivery of election materials, however it does address reconvening the working group to study polling places at schools. In some municipalities in Maine, schools are used as polling places. While there could be a learning opportunity for students to see how our democratic society works, in some schools it creates a disruption to the school. It can also create a safety issue for those schools who do not have proper security to man the desks at the polling station. We believe that this bill could increase the security at these schools ensuring the safety of school students and staff.

We appreciate the reconvening of the working group to study polling places at schools and we strongly encourage the Committee to add a building principal to that group. The principal can better understand and explain exactly how well, or not, the polling system works in their building.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 13.