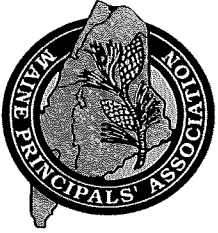


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*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 1800: An Act Regarding Parental Rights in Education
DATE: May 11, 2023

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 in opposition of LD 1800. We have significant issues with this bill based on two primary topics. Schools constantly battle with parents who have conflicting ideas of what they think is best for their shared child(ren). Our job is to partner with parents to do what is best, but when they are on conflicting sides, it is difficult to maneuver. This bill requires a consensus on every decision and will put the educators in the middle. This is not going to provide a timely decision for things as simple as a signed permission form. This is going to be exceptionally difficult for students who have an IEP when, by statute, that IEP team decides what is best for the student.

Schools want to be partners with parents and guardians. Schools do notify parents of what services are available for students. We are not the enemy and we do not want to be adversarial. We want to work with parents to make decisions that are best for their own children, not for ALL children.

For this reason, we urge the Committee vote Ought Not to Pass LD 1800.