

**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 Opposition of 1589: Resolve, Directing the
Department of Education to Adopt Rules Prohibiting
Teacher in Public Schools from Engaging in Political,
Ideological and Religious Advocacy in the Classroom**
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. We represent more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee unanimously opposes LD 1589. It is the expectation for all Maine teachers that if they are teaching a curriculum that involves the discussion of politics and religions, that all points of view are to be presented to students: not one more or over another.

The language of this bill is very subjective and therefore could be very dangerous to those who are teaching these subjects. If one person “thinks” that the material is being taught is leaving towards one point of view, that teacher could face charges and potentially lose their job. What is considered “political” in the eyes of one person may not be deemed “political” by others.

Another concern that we have with this bill is the required 3-hour annual training on the topic. When will this take place? There are already many mandated trainings that have to occur on an annual basis and not enough professional development time for other important topics. What will come off the plate in order for this training to occur?

For these reasons, the MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1589.