



**Maine Unitarian Universalist  
State Advocacy Network**

PO Box 8 Augusta ME 04330

[www.muusan.org](http://www.muusan.org)

[info@muusan.org](mailto:info@muusan.org)

2/15/2022

Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Deborah Crump. I am a resident of West Paris and am testifying in support of LD 1626. I submit these remarks as a member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), which links Maine's 26 UU congregations in working for legislation. The Unitarian Universalist faith tradition affirms and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

I believe LD 1626 should become law because the 1980 settlement implementing act, which it would amend, has put the Wabanaki tribes in a category separate from all other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. and has stifled the Tribes' right to self-determination, causing both cultural and economic hardship. As a nurse and a member of MUUSAN's health care issue group, I am concerned about the health of tribal people in our state. Studies have shown that insult to one's worth and dignity in society and suffering literally centuries of injustice, inequity and poverty take a grave toll on the health of a people.

For these reasons, I believe the State of Maine has a moral imperative to help restore the Wabanaki peoples' sovereignty and right to self-determination. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1626.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important legislation.

Deborah Crump

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LD 1626

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