

Carol Wishcamper  
Freeport  
LD 1970

Senator Bailey, Representative Dana, and Honorable Members of the Maine Judiciary Committee:

As the Co-Chair of the Maine Wabanaki State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission(TRC), 2013-2015, I strongly support passage of LD 1970, an Act to Enact the Maine Indian Child Welfare Act. Our in-depth research and findings highlighted the disparity in the number of native children in foster care and recommended stronger adherence to the Indian Child Welfare Act. Since that time, I am pleased to note that Maine has made many of the changes recommended in the TRC report.

ICWA is known to be the 'gold standard' of child welfare practice and should be encoded in Maine law to ensure that Wabanaki children benefit from adherence to its guidelines.

I encourage you to pass this Act. Thank you.