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LD 1970

I am writing today in support of LD1970. With this act Maine would join 12 other states that have acted to codify ICWA protection on the state level. This would protect Wabanaki children, families, culture and sovereignty if the U.S. Supreme Court in June decides to weaken or destroy protections which have been known to be the "gold standard" of child welfare policies for 40 years.

ICWA helps Wabanaki children to stay connected to their culture, extended family and community.

I am recently retired and over a 40-year career in human services I have seen the impact on the Wabanaki that were removed from their home and the difficult and arduous journey to try and re-establish connection with their community.

It is vitally important for the Tribes of Maine to pass LD 1970, so that the Supreme Court cannot put Maine backwards and that children can be raised by their families and communities without fear of removal which has had a detrimental and devastating impact on individuals, families and community of the Tribes of Maine.

I support LD 1970 as it is the only ethical choice.