

Megan Marquis
China Village
LD 1970

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Megan Marquis, and I live in China Village. I am writing today to ask you to support LD 1970.

ICWA was made to protect Native children. It was established because churches and our government thought it was okay to take Native children from the great care of their Native families and send them off to boarding schools across the US in attempts to "civilize" them. These schools used many forms of dehumanizing abuse on these children, that took some of their lives. These graves made the front pages during the pandemic. This Boarding school program eventually turned into foster care malpractice that took advantage of Native families well into the 21st century. This affects me - because I cannot live in a world where children are endangered. We can fix this. Maine has the chance to enact ICWA, which has been labeled the "gold standard" in child welfare policy and practice by a coalition of 18 national child advocacy organizations. Native children are children and Maine could codify the gold standard of protection that 12 other states have already done to protect their youth.

This is why I ask you to support LD 1970. We need to protect our future, and that starts with protecting every child in our state.

Thank you for your time.