

Adrienne Horne  
Appleton  
LD 1970

Testimony in Support of LD 1970 “An Act to Enact the Maine Indian Child Welfare Act”

May 30, 2023

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Adrienne Horne and I’m a resident of Appleton, ME. I am writing today in support of LD 1970 “An Act to Enact the Maine Indian Child Welfare Act”.

The Indian Child Welfare act of 1978 (ICWA) has been labeled the “gold standard” in child welfare policy and practice by a coalition of 18 national child advocacy organizations and is supported by nearly 500 tribes, hundreds of supporters, and at least 87 members of Congress including Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representative Chellie Pingree. In Maine specifically, we know from the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth & Reconciliation Commission report from 2015 that before ICWA the rate of removal for Wabanaki children was 62.4 times higher than the statewide rate for non-Native children, the second highest in the nation at the time. Removing Indigenous children from their homes unnecessarily, especially when fit and willing relatives are available, is harmful. Passing LD 1970 would bring Maine in line with 12 other states that have already acted to codify ICWA at the state level and protect Wabanaki children, families, culture, and sovereignty if the US Supreme Court decides in June to remove the “gold standard” of child welfare policies for the last 40 years. Please join me in supporting LD 1970 and protecting the children and families in our state.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and thank you for all the work that you do.

Sincerely,  
Adrienne Horne  
Appleton, ME