

Nancy Kurtz  
Topsham  
LD 1970

As a citizen of Maine concerned with remediating our state's historic treatment of the Wabanaki, I write in support of LD 1970. The 1978 federal Child Welfare Act was passed to prioritize keeping Indian children in their native culture and extended families rather than removing them to the custody of non-native families. This is important for the welfare of native children. As the federal law is under constitutional attack it is critical that states enact this protection as a matter of state law. Our legislators in Congress and our state have filed a brief in support of the federal act. Passing LD 1970, the Maine Indian Child Welfare Act, will guarantee that Wabanaki children will continue to receive the protections contained in the federal act. I urge the Committee and the legislature to support and pass LD 1970