

Kerry Sack
Old Town
LD 1642

In Support of LD 1642 An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools, as amended, Sponsored by Rep. Laurie Osher

Sen. Rafferty, Rep. Brennan, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs;

I've served on the Legislative Committee of the Committee on Indian Relations of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine.

In addition to the Committee on Indian Relations asking you in separate testimony to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1642, I testify on behalf of myself, letting you know that it's been frustrating to learn how many years since the work of LD 1642 first began by Chapter 403 of the Maine Public Laws way back in 2001! (That legislation was previously known as LD 291).

Since before the 2001 law passed, many dedicated Mainers have been working on educating children in all Maine schools about the history of Indigenous-settler relations in Maine.

Kudos to Maine cultural, educational and advocacy organizations and educators who have worked through the years since 2001 to educate Maine students regarding Wabanaki history and culture that is integral to Maine history.

Much remains yet to be done, so thank you for supporting LD 1642 that includes next steps which our state and our schools need to take.

Please vote 'Ought to Pass LD 1642' to assure that Maine children get the opportunity to learn Maine history that not only respects by teaching the stories of European settlers, but also respects by teaching the history of settler relationships with our Wabanaki neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony to Pass LD 1642.

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