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Testimony in Support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

February 26, 2024

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is George Hill and I am submitting testimony today on behalf of Maine Family Planning in support of LD 2007, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations.

As health care providers, we believe in patient-driven care. We believe that patients are the experts in their own lives, and their own bodies. We endeavor to listen to them and create plans of care that center the patient. It is from this perspective that we deliver our testimony today in support of LD 2007.

Wabanaki nations and citizens know what ails them, and they have devised a plan of care that is supported by dozens of legislators and subject matter experts from around the country (see 'Economic and Social Impacts of Restrictions on the Applicability of Federal Indian Policies to the Wabanaki Nations in Maine' from the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School for one example). It is time – past time – for us to put our trust in their wisdom and expertise, and let them guide us on this journey to health, recognition of their sovereignty, and inherent right to self-determination.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 2007.

Thank you,
George Hill
President & CEO
Maine Family Planning