

Marwa Hassanien
Bangor
LD 724

Honorable members of the committee,

My name is Marwa Hassanien, and I submit this testimony not only as a member of the Muslim community but as a mother, an educator, and an advocate for inclusion and belonging. I urge you to pass LD 724 and recognize Eid as a state holiday—not just for the Muslim community, but for the values of respect, dignity, and belonging that we all hold dear.

Eid—whether Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, or Eid al-Adha, commemorating sacrifice and faith—is one of the most significant days for Muslims worldwide. It is a time of joy, gratitude, and community, where families come together for prayer, reflection, and celebration. Yet for many Muslim children in our state, the joy of Eid is overshadowed by a difficult choice: celebrate their faith or attend school. Similarly for Muslim professionals, the challenge is similar—having to take time off for what should be a recognized day of rest, observance, and celebration.

When we designate state holidays, we are making a statement about what we value as a society. We acknowledge that holidays are more than just days off—they are reflections of our diverse identities and shared humanity. Just as we honor Christmas, Thanksgiving, Juneteenth, and other cultural and religious observances, recognizing Eid as a state holiday would send a powerful message that our state sees, values, and respects all of its citizens.

In these divisive and unprecedented times, this is an opportunity to take meaningful action. Making Eid a state holiday is not just about fairness—it's about fostering a more inclusive and welcoming state for all. It affirms that every child, every family, and every community matters. It is the essence of what Maine stands for and why we love calling it home!

I respectfully urge you to take this step toward inclusion and recognition. Let us be a state that leads with empathy, understanding, and justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Marwa