

Mary DiMarco
Houlton
LD 1474

Testimony in Support of LD 1474

An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools

Sponsored by Rep. Laurie Osher

Submitted for the Public Hearing Before the Maine Legislature's Committee on
Education and Cultural Affairs

As a retired Maine public school teacher, I ask you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1474. As a primary grades classroom teacher and literacy specialist for over 30 years, I tried on my own to bring the history and culture of the Wabanaki people to my students. Even after the Wabanaki Studies law (LD 291) was passed in 2001, there was not time, training, or funding committed to teach the children I worked with about the history of the Wabanaki tribes or even the fact that they exist today. All Maine children deserve to know the history of the tribes, the relationship between them and the state, and the knowledge and rich culture that the Wabanaki continue to contribute to Maine. This bill needs to become legislation and needs to be funded to provide Maine teachers the understanding, skills, and resources to teach this important material.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1474.

Mary Beth DiMarco, Houlton