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LD 1474

I support LD1474, which requires the Maine Department of Education to continue funding for contracted Wabanaki advisors working with the Wabanaki Studies Specialist to create and implement professional development short-term courses for teachers. These courses must be made available to teachers throughout the state. Although LD 291 has been a legal requirement since 2001, few Maine schools succeed in offering curriculum that meets the mark and teachers struggle to find resources and time to learn how and what they should be teaching in Wabanaki Studies.

It is important that Maine fund the position of Wabanaki Studies Specialist in the Maine Department of Education. A meaningful first step for Maine will be to create the permanent Wabanaki Studies Specialist position and to ensure proper compensation for Wabanaki advisors working on curriculum and teacher development.

LD 1474 supports readying teachers to provide instruction in Wabanaki Studies, which would provide resources to help our state meet the requirement to teach Wabanaki studies.