

Matthew Keith
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LD 1474

To the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and who may read this,

My name is Matthew Keith and I am writing in strong support of the passage of LD 1474. While LD 291 has legally obligated Maine schools to teach Wabanaki Studies since 2001, the sad reality is that the implementation has been subpar at best and, more commonly, woefully absent entirely. LD 1474 would go a long way to ensuring that the original intentions of LD 291 are realized.

We owe it to the original Mainers, the sovereign Wabanaki Nations, to follow through on our commitments. When we say we will honor legislation we pass, we must do everything we can to follow through. Too many promises, and treaties, have been broken. No one is perfect, and we all make mistakes, but when we do we can own up to them and make the situation right. Let us help make this situation right by passing LD 1474 and empowering people of Wabanaki Nations to have more agency in the way their history is taught in Maine.

With gratitude,
Matthew Keith