

Rebecca Buchanan
Southwest Harbor
LD 1474

Hello,

I am a teacher educator in the state, and my testimony is in support of LD 1474, which provides the support and mechanisms necessary to enact LD 291 - from over twenty years ago. LD 1474 would support funding for department of education curriculum leaders to develop a Wabanaki Studies Curriculum and supporting professional development capacity. The bill also requires that Wabanaki communities are represented and centered in the completion of this material development. Finally, it would require that in order to achieve licensure, teachers take courses on teaching Wabanaki Studies, providing the professional knowledge and skills they need. Right now, when I tell teachers LD 291 is a law, they feel mortified that they haven't been meeting the expectations, but they also weren't trained to teach Wabanaki Studies. And there are few classes that are available to them to develop this expertise at higher education institutions now. This requirement will force universities in the state to put resources behind courses on teaching Wabanaki studies that have been directed in other areas, because of different requirements.