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LD 1474

I am writing in support of LD 1474- An act to strengthen teaching of Wabanaki studies in Maine school. Although the teaching of Wabanaki studies has been the law for over 20 years- few school districts are in compliance with LD 291. LD 1474 is a way to assist schools to comply with the current law so that Wabanaki studies are in fact taught in schools in a factual and compassionate manner. The position of Wabanaki Studies Specialist in the Maine Department of Education needs to be a permanent position- this LD would assure that. Also very important is to assure that Wabanaki voices are included and heard in the process of professional development for teachers. Requiring funding for the contracted Wabanaki advisors is necessary. One rule to live by is to pay people for their work and expertise. This bill also supports teachers around the state to be prepared to teach Wabanaki studies in an effective way. The investment in one staff position and advisor stipends is very important to support Wabanaki Studies education. Thank you for your time and service.