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LD 1474

Good Evening and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1474. Dear members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1474.

I am a mother of three children who attend public school in Maine, and this is the first year that we've been aware that there are laws requiring Maine to educate children on the history of native Mainers. My 4th grader recently completed a project on the history of first Mainers, the original people in Maine who became the Wabanaki nations. This lesson really hit home for him because it was relevant to him, and this was one of the first times he'd studied people who lived HERE, in our town and county, from this time period. Although my family's ancestors are from Europe, he has never visited that continent. Our life is here, and when asked whether he'd want to do another lesson about native Mainers the answer was an enthusiastic "Yes Please!".

We would love to see more truly local history taught in our schools.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you have about our experience.