

February 18, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Thomas Keefe, and I live in Augusta, Maine. I am a retired Associate Professor of Humanities. In that capacity, I specialized in human rights and genocide education. I am the author of *This Day in Native America* (2018) and *This Day in Genocide* (2016). I also presented at the University of North Carolina on Native American genocide in 2018.

I am submitting my comments today in support of both LD 785 and LD 395.

These bills not only continue the process of addressing historical wrongs, but they will stimulate the economy and benefit all Mainers, indigenous and non-indigenous alike. In addition, economic growth that increases the economic status of Mainers also positively benefits the State of Maine's budget in reduced expenditures.

Please support Maine's economy, our indigenous communities, and be on the right side of history.

Thank you,

Thomas E. Keefe, Ed.D

References

Keefe, T. (2019). Genocide and the Native American Experience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1DHz4XluYI>

Keefe, T. (2019). Native American Genocide: Realities and Denials, First International Conference of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies, University of North Carolina – Charlotte, April 13-14, 2019. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332383826_Native_American_Genocide_Realities_and_Denials.

Tom Keefe
Augusta
LD 785

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