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***Testimony of Rep. Aaron Dana supporting
LD 1352, An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary***

Thank you and good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and all distinguished colleagues and fellow members of Judiciary Committee. My name is Aaron Dana, I am the Tribal Representative for the Passamaquoddy Nation and I come before you to testify in support of **LD 1352 An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer**.

I strongly believe that having no barriers to becoming a lawyer is essential for promoting diversity and inclusivity in the legal profession. For too long, certain communities have been excluded or discouraged from pursuing a career in law because of their background or circumstances. By removing unnecessary obstacles such as costly tuition fees, complicated admission procedures, limited access to mentorship opportunities, or discrimination based on race, gender, or socio-economic status, we can create a level playing field for aspiring lawyers from all walks of life.

Furthermore, by having a more diverse and representative pool of legal professionals, we can improve the quality of legal services and justice outcomes for all segments of society. This means better understanding of different points of view, more creative and innovative problem-solving, less bias and more fairness in decision-making, and ultimately a stronger rule of law that benefits everyone.

While it's important to maintain rigorous standards for legal education and practice, we should also strive to eliminate unnecessary barriers that prevent talented individuals from pursuing their dreams and making a positive impact in the legal field. I urge policymakers, educators, and practitioners to work together to create a more open, inclusive, and accessible legal profession. In conclusion, removing barriers to becoming a lawyer in Maine could have significant benefits for both aspiring attorneys and the legal profession as a whole.

By expanding opportunities for legal apprenticeships and considering alternative paths to licensure, individuals who may not have had access to or the means to attend law school can pursue a career in law. This could lead to a more diverse and inclusive legal community, with a wider range of perspectives and experiences represented. Additionally, by increasing access to legal services, removing barriers to becoming a lawyer could help address the justice gap and

Tribal Representative (Passamaquoddy Tribe)

much needed representation for underserved communities here in Maine. Overall an act to remove the barriers to becoming a lawyer here in Maine has the potential to promote greater access to justice and a ~~one~~ path way to resolving the issues we face with the lack of lawyers in the legal profession.

Thank you for your time and attention and I will do my best to answer any questions that you may have or you can wait until I do my research and I could give you legal answer once I have done my legal research.