



## Department of the Secretary of State

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### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Testimony of Kate McBrien, Maine State Archivist  
Department of the Secretary of State  
May 10, 2023

Testifying Neither For, Nor Against

L D 273, "An Act to Provide Funds to the Malaga 1912 Scholarship Fund"

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Kate McBrien and I am the Maine State Archivist I am speaking today Neither For, Nor Against L D 273

In addition to serving as your Maine State Archivist, I am also an historian of the Malaga Island community I was the curator for the award-winning exhibition "Malaga Island, Fragmented Lives" on view at the Maine State Museum from 2012 to 2013 and had the honor to serve on the previous scholarship fund committee From 2015 through 2018, we distributed \$350,000 granted by the State of Maine to the direct descendants of those evicted from their Malaga Island homes The funds were well managed by the Maine Community Foundation, who also were very generous with their support of the Scholarship Committee

I am proud to share the Committee was able to send dozens of people to school We supported students earning degrees in programs ranging from nursing, to engineering, to psychology While scholarships never fully funded a student's entire education experience, it greatly assisted many to reduce the amount of debt incurred by attending school I know of one scholarship recipient who went on to open her own thriving business

Per state regulations at the time, the Scholarship Committee was given five years in which we were required to fully distribute the provided funds We tried to spread the available funds to as many people as possible, but the need was so great that we exhausted the funds within three and half years For several years after, I continued to hear from descendants of the Malaga Island community, asking if there would be more scholarship funds made available as the need continued

This concludes my testimony I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have Thank you