



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly in support of*

### **LD 273, “An Act to Provide Funds to the Malaga 1912 Scholarship Fund ”**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs*

Good afternoon Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs My name is Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook I am here today as a co-sponsor for **LD 273: An Act to Provide Funds to the Malaga 1912 Scholarship Fund**

I’ve spent a lot of time on the New Meadows River It’s one of the most beautiful parts of Maine, but it is also the site of one of Maine’s most shameful and disgusting acts of racism From the mid-1800s until the early 1900s, Malaga Island was home to a racially diverse fishing village Many of its residents were of black and biracial backgrounds Maine’s state government evicted these families from Malaga Island in 1912 along with the incredibly cruel act of exhuming the graves of Malaga and moving them to Pineland in order to erase their past

One of the last residents of Malaga Island, Lottie Marks Blackwell, died in 1997 This dark chapter in our state’s history is not of some distant past We owe it to their descendants to fully fund this scholarship I urge this committee to vote ought to pass

Thank you very much for your time and consideration