

Administrative Office of the Courts

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Judicial Branch testimony neither for nor against LD 1970, An Act to Enact the Maine Indian Child Welfare Act:

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide brief testimony and comments regarding this bill

The Judicial Branch takes no position on the merits of this bill. The Judicial Branch's Family Division thoroughly reviewed the bill for consistency between the different areas of law addressing the rights of children and families. These include Title 19-A divorce and custody provisions, Title 22 child protection statutes, and Title 18-C probate matters. Several questions were identified and were forwarded to the individuals in the Attorney General's office who were charged with drafting the bill. It is our understanding that the AG's office will soon offer an amendment to the bill clarifying these points. We will continue to work with the AG's office, as well as the committee and the committee's analyst, if assistance is requested.

Thank you for your consideration