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LD 422, "An Act to Require the State to Obtain Municipal Approval Before Placing Noncitizens in the Municipality"

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
February 26, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

I am Trey Stewart; and I represent Senate District 2, which includes municipalities in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties. I am here today to offer testimony in support of LD 422, *"An Act to Require the State to Obtain Municipal Approval Before Placing Noncitizens in the Municipality."*

Representative Swallow has hit the nail on the head with his proposal to prohibit the State from placing noncitizens within a municipality without the municipality's prior authorization. This measure also allows the municipality to limit the number of noncitizens the State places within the municipality.

It is specifically targeted towards the purposeful importation of illegal aliens who are being brought to Maine by the executive branch and then left to be a burden at the local level, without any plan for income because they are not allowed to work or support for the locality or conform with any aspect of society. Maine should not be a sanctuary state at all and I hope the federal government will develop a means to end that practice for all states. However, as long as that practice is continuing in Maine, it certainly should not be forced upon poor and unprepared communities across Maine that simply cannot manage the problem the influx creates.

This is about local control. Municipalities can better determine the heavy burden and impact of relocating noncitizens within their borders. Oakfield, Maine is drastically different Portland, Maine. Population, taxes, housing, municipal services all vary from town to town. We should not have a one-size-fits-all welcoming committee. Let communities decide what's best for themselves. It's a matter of affordability. Small rural towns simply do not have the funding to accommodate new students, do not have housing options for newcomers and do not have the manpower to assist with health and safety issues.

Thank you so much for your time and attention and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.