

Horkan, Dylan

From: Buckman, Annie-Laurie
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Horkan, Dylan
Subject: FW: LD783 Testimony

OOPS sent this to the wrong Dylan – Here you go!

Annie Laurie Buckman
Legislative Information Office
287-1692

From: Buckman, Annie-Laurie <AnnieLaurie.Buckman@legislature.maine.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Sinclair, Dylan <Dylan.Sinclair@legislature.maine.gov>
Cc: Legislature: Legislative Information <LegislatureLegislativeInformation@legislature.maine.gov>
Subject: FW: LD783 Testimony

Annie Laurie Buckman
Legislative Information Office
287-1692

From: Webmaster Senate <webmaster_senate@legislature.maine.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Legislative Information Office (legis.info@legislature.maine.gov)
<LegislativeInformationOffice@legislature.maine.gov>
Subject: FW: LD783 Testimony

From: dennis chinoy <dennischinoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 9:44 PM
To: webmaster.legis <webmaster.legis@legislature.maine.gov>
Subject: LD783 Testimony

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

To: Maine Legislature Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee

My name is Dennis Chinoy. I reside at 36 Garland St. in Bangor. I have been involved with the Maine Multicultural Center (MMCC) for some years as a volunteer. As such I have experienced the catalytic effect that well targeted State funds has made for this remarkable organization, which ran purely on dedicated volunteer energy for several years prior. fffff

Provision of a relatively modest infusion of state funds has had just the kind of amplifier effect one would hope. Maintaining its committed volunteer base and now provided with staffing assistance for some core functions, the Center has become a durable and effective civic organization for New Mainers, and for the Bangor community into which they must integrate.

I can attest that MMCC excels on a brass tacks level in helping immigrant individuals and families acclimate to the area, whether they be foreign professionals or refugees who are re-settling. The staff and volunteer teams assist New Mainers to access the resources they need, and to navigate the various educational, healthcare, legal, financial and other agencies that would otherwise be overwhelming. Maine's support for the MMCC's staff to effectively provide this kind of humane and practical welcome has allowed the organization to scale up its capacity and make sustainable its work.

Since the flow of immigrants to this area will continue to expand, Bangor city government as well as the Bangor community is extremely fortunate to have MMCC doing this work. For the amount it accomplishes, its budget is lean and a precious bargain. I urge you to provide the continued support this bill authorizes.