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Lewiston, ME / Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
LD 756

I am writing in support of LD 756 on behalf of the board and members of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC), a coalition of 85 member organizations with a commitment to advancing and defending the rights of Maine's immigrant communities.

Our mission is to improve the legal, social, and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants – enhancing their lives while strengthening Maine – through advocacy, information sharing, and collaboration both through and among our member organizations. We actively prioritize the voices, perspectives, and decision-making of New Mainer communities as we acknowledge the status quo of systems that consistently disadvantage them.

We wholeheartedly support this measure, as many of the youth detained or committed to Long Creek come from the communities we serve. We endorse the idea of having each child getting a needs assessment. We believe there should be an accountable oversight entity for the juvenile system, and that funding should be allocated to meet the needs of the children involved.

Therefore, we endorse LD 756 and strongly urge the Maine State Legislature to pass it without delay.