

Marwa Hassanien  
Bangor  
LD 320

Dear Esteemed Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of LD 320, in fully support of this bill as "An Act to support the Maine Multicultural Center". I wanted to write to speak to the impact it will have on all members of our community--from young to old.

As a member of the MMCC Board of Directors, I can attest to the impact it has had on our community. MMCC has offered community-based solutions by offering services and resources to our community at large. It promotes community enrichment and economic growth by attracting, retaining, supporting, and integrating all people of diverse cultures and identity groups to greater Bangor.

Additionally, I wanted to express what MMCC has meant to my own family and many others who are from "away". As young, "New Mainer" family arrives, MMCC quickly becomes a safe have and lifeline for them because it celebrates and promotes racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity and gives people a sense of belonging. It also gives them an outlet to meet others from all around the world, which is healthy socially and emotionally. They are subsequently able to find a "home away from home", as they make new friendships. MMCC represents an equitable community that builds bridges amongst people of all backgrounds, regardless of their social identities. It fosters connections for them and helps the form lifetime friendships.

As such, I write in support of this bill which will provide the funds necessary for the enhancement of the MMCC to assist with more resources, presentations, conversations, workshops, and opportunities to help those from away settle in. The need is mutual for economic growth and development in our region! With these funds, I envision all the magic it will create for newcoming families, those well-established, and for generations to come! Thank you!