

I am submitting testimony in favor of the proposed amendment LD 320 "An Act to Support the Maine MultiCultural Center" I have worked as a teacher of Multilingual Learners/ English for Speakers of Other Languages for Bangor Adult Education for almost 40 years. In this time I have seen the benefit to my students and the Greater Bangor Community as they have recently been supported by the Maine Multicultural Center by gaining employment, registering my students and their family members for school, getting medical care-including needed vaccinations, opening local bank accounts, getting a driver's license and a place to live.

MMCC support teams help with finding, furnishing and setting up homes in the area, getting New Mainers to English classes, and to medical appointments. MMCC sends children to summer camp and provides opportunities for families to socialize and practice English with a specialized literature-based program working with another community organization-Literacy Volunteers of Bangor.

Bangor is well on its way to accepting 50 new individuals this year through Catholic Charities of Maine in addition to others who have come to make their new home in Bangor, seeing it as a small, welcoming community. For the first time in almost 40 years there is a waiting list for students to attend Adult Education to learn to speak English. The Maine MultiCultural Center is a focal point centering all services and organizations to work together for the good of the Greater Bangor Area.