

**TESTIMONY OF MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION  
SUPPORTING L.D. 320:**

An Act to Support the Maine Multicultural Center  
Sponsor: Senator Ryan Tipping  
Public Hearing: Wednesday, May 10th, 2023, at 10:00 am

Dear Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

We are writing on behalf of the board and members of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) in support of L.D. 320: An Act to Support the Maine Multicultural Center. MIRC is a coalition of almost 100 organizations from across the state committed to advancing and defending the rights of Maine's immigrant communities. We (Tobin and Ruben) are MIRC's Advocacy and Policy team.

MIRC's mission is to improve the legal, social, and economic conditions experienced by immigrants, therefore improving the state as a whole. To do so, we partner with allies working toward similar goals. This is why our organization values collaboration and partnerships. We understand the power of working together to address the pressing needs of immigrant communities.

The Maine Multicultural Center is a network of educational, business, and cultural services that play a vital role in promoting community enrichment and economic growth by attracting, retaining, supporting, and integrating people of diverse cultures and backgrounds. Its mission and vision embrace diversity as essential to the economic and social vitality of Maine, making it an invaluable asset to our state.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Maine Multicultural Center serves as the welcoming center for those who are new to Maine, highlighting and celebrating the diversity that already exists in our state. By promoting a better understanding of the native cultures of the New Mainers in our community, the center fosters a sense of community enrichment and generates economic growth.

L.D. 320 represents a crucial opportunity to expand and support the Maine Multicultural Center in its mission to foster a more inclusive, vibrant, and economically prosperous state. By providing the necessary resources, funding, and legislative support, we can empower the center to continue its vital work and make an even greater impact.

In conclusion, we urge you to recognize the immense value of the Maine Multicultural Center and its contribution to the well-being of immigrants and the state of Maine. We respectfully request your support for L.D. 320, which will ensure the expansion and ongoing support of this essential organization. By doing so, we will further advance

Tobin Williamson and Ruben Torres  
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition

###