

Mary Beth DiMarco
Houlton
LD 1642

Testimony in Support of LD 1642 An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools, as amended, Sponsored by Rep. Laurie Osher

To Sen. Rafferty, Rep. Brennan, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs; my name is Mary Beth DiMarco, retired Maine public school teacher, and I ask you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1642.

As a primary grades classroom teacher and literacy specialist for over 30 years, I tried on my own to bring the history and culture of the Wabanaki people to my students. Even after the Wabanaki Studies law (LD 291) was passed in 2001, there was not time, training, or funding committed to teach the children I worked with about the history of the Wabanaki tribes or even the fact that they exist today. All Maine children deserve to know the history of the tribes, the relationship between them and the state, and the knowledge and rich culture that the Wabanaki continue to contribute to Maine.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1642.