

Mary Griffith  
Freeport  
LD 1642

I am writing in support of LD 1642, An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools. I am a retired elementary and middle school teacher. When I was teaching 5th grade I had an extensive unit on Wabanaki Studies and integrated the teaching in other social studies units throughout the year. It was very successful, even with students who were not typically as engaged with other social studies units. I had worked on the book *The Wabanakis of Maine and the Maritimes* for several years, and I drew from that experience when assembling materials. Although great strides have been made in Wabanaki Education in the past decade, many teachers still do not have familiarity with Wabanaki resources or current issues. Guidelines, resources, and sample units would help to bring them up to speed. Teachers have even more demands on their time and energy than when I was teaching, and I urge you to pass this bill to help them.