

Emily Troll  
South Portland  
LD 1642

To the honorable Chairs, Senators Rafferty and Brennan, and the other members of the committee:

Thank you for your consideration of LD 1642, an Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools. Before my career change, I was a school-teacher in Maine, and cared deeply about bringing forward indigenous topics in the classroom. While there was official legislation supporting this work, there were no on-the-ground supports for me at that time.

This bill truly supports teachers by instituting trainings and putting forward clear topics and goals for study. This bill also makes a financial commitment to the new curriculum. Instead of yet another out-of-pocket cost for teachers, this bill provides permanent funding to support the change.

Maine has already agreed to the goal - teach Wabanaki studies and honor the history and present of our indigenous neighbors who have been, and continue to be, mistreated by our state. This bill allows us to finally act in service of this goal. It has been too long already. Teachers are hungry for support, and students really need this knowledge. I urge you to pass this bill with the greatest support possible. Thank you.