

Newell Lewey  
Passamaquoddy Tribal Citizen

Newell Lewey's Testimony in support of LD-343 March 24, 2021

Good morning, Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Newell Lewey and I am a Passamaquoddy tribal citizen. I served eight years on the Passamaquoddy Tribal council (2010-2018). My time as a tribal leader helped me to understand the struggle of securing sustainable funding for community-based prevention efforts and the complexities of addressing persistent and intergenerational disparities affecting our tribal communities. These disparities that have resulted in a much shorter life expectancy and more substantial health risk factors for tribal citizens. Our disparities are always present, they are felt daily, and we ask you to work with us to secure a better future for our tribal citizens.

I am submitting today in support of LD-343, "An Act to Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain Communities". This Act sets aside at least 12% of the funding from federal block grants received by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to the federally recognized Tribes in Maine.

This legislation can have a very positive impact on the health of our tribal citizens. I appreciate your legislative work, your roles, and your commitment to your communities. Please understand the importance of LD-343 "An Act to Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain Communities" and please join me in supporting this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Newell Lewey  
Citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point