



**Testimony in support of LD 395  
An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations**

**From: The Board of Directors of Healthy Acadia  
March 4, 2026**

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

We, the Board of Directors of Healthy Acadia, are writing in strong support of LD 395, An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations.

Healthy Acadia is a community and public health coalition devoted to addressing the critical health challenges our communities face and making it possible for all people to lead healthier lives. We have been working since 2001 with hundreds of partners and thousands of community members to collaboratively address a wide range of locally-defined health needs. We serve Washington and Hancock counties, and we provide additional community health support and partnership across Maine.

We at Healthy Acadia stand in firm support of the Wabanaki Confederacy and all of the Tribes in Maine as we wholeheartedly support LD 395. As you know, this bill would simply put tribes in Maine on more equal footing to the other federally recognized tribes (570 tribes across the U.S.). It would enable Wabanaki Nations to access federal law in the same manner as all other federally recognized tribes. Since 1980, the Wabanaki Nations have faced unjust barriers in utilizing federal law, including laws that would support their tribal economic development, public health, environmental protection, child welfare, self-governance, and criminal justice. LD 395 will correct this wrong, supporting the health and wellbeing of the people of the Wabanaki Confederacy, and by extension, all of Maine.

Healthy Acadia is deeply committed to equity and justice, including justice for our Wabanaki neighbors and family, who are the original stewards of this land we call Maine, and who have suffered generations of injustices, violence, and cruelty. We are guided by our Wabanaki team members, partners, and friends to develop programming and offerings that are most beneficial to Wabanaki community goals, visions, and priorities. We are honored to partner with Tribal communities on a growing number of public health initiatives, and we continually learn from them as we work to address the health challenges community members face and to help all



people thrive. We commit to our ongoing work of justice and equity, to our learning journey as allies and partners and team members, and to doing all we can to listen, support, and follow the leadership of the Tribal communities.

This right now is a moment when we all must listen, support, and follow the Wabanaki people. They have worked tirelessly, collaboratively, and in good faith to right wrongs and move forward in a positive direction for their communities, for their land, and for all of us. We have the opportunity now, with the passage of LD 395, to take an important next step to support justice and fairness, to repair harm, and to support present and future generations. We wholeheartedly urge you to pass LD 395.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Board of Directors of Healthy Acadia