

Maine Local Living School Support for LD395 and LD785

February 19, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

This is Michelle Fournier writing on behalf of Maine Local Living School, a working homestead and education center focused on nurturing the human-earth relationship, located in Temple, Maine. I am writing to express our strong support for LD395 and LD785.

When considering policy today it is critical to consider the arc of history. US and state policy perpetrated genocide on Wabanaki peoples, stole their land, and tried to extinguish their cultures and languages. Wabanaki people today deserve to have all of the conditions to thrive. In particular we want to highlight the injustice of the extremely high childhood poverty rate in Wabanaki communities, which the Settlement Acts have contributed to.

Restoring sovereignty and self-determination for Wabanaki nations is the way forward. It is the right thing to do, and will benefit all of us. I urge you to pass and do everything in your power to implement LD395 and LD785.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Fournier". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Michelle Fournier, Operations Manager
Maine Local Living School
71 Lake Drive, Temple, ME 04984
www.maine localliving.org