

Algernon Lutwak
Bangor
LD 395

Support for LD 785, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Algernon Lutwak and I live in Bangor. I am writing to testify in support of LD 395.

The land on which we live, which was stolen from the Wabanaki Nations centuries ago, remains in the hands of "settlers" who do not adequately represent those members of the Wabanaki who remain. Additionally, many of the services members of the Wabanaki Nations receive do not derive from the US federal or ME state government - most notably healthcare services.

As a healthcare provider tangentially involved in this care, I've been able to observe how respect for cultural practices, support for full-service care, and accessibility for patients are greater when people are served by their own nation and community. It is my belief that generalizing autonomy is the best way to serve Wabanaki interests.

In conclusion, I'd like to voice my support for LD 395. Thank you for your time and consideration.