

Meadow Dibble
Resident

To the Committee on State on Local Government,
I am writing in support of LD 1034, An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations.
In the interest of equity and justice, I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1034.
Culture, in the words of Seth Godin, can be summarized as "people like us do things like this."
Though we have only just begun to discuss it publicly thanks to recent scholarship by Kate McMahon and Patricia Wall, among others, Maine's culture has been fundamentally shaped by a deep and longstanding investment in the dehumanizing systems that robbed millions of Africans and their descendants of life and liberty over the centuries.
Funding the work of the Permanent Commission will go a long way towards bringing this history to light and allowing us to reckon with its implications. If we fail to fund the Permanent Commission, we fail to take up the critical task of reading our state's past and present through a racial equity lens and translating these learnings into meaningful action.
In 2021, White ignorance continues to literally kill Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, just as it has done for centuries. It is well past time that we invested in knowledge.

Sincerely,
Meadow Dibble

Meadow Dibble, PhD (she, her, hers)
Director, Atlantic Black Box
Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University
Editor, The International Educator