



STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1300

RYAN M. FECTEAU
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

April 14, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of L.D. 1034 An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I am Ryan Fecteau and I represent part of my hometown of Biddeford. I also have the distinct honor of serving as the Speaker of the Maine House. I'm here today to support L.D. 1034, An Act To Provide Funding To Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations, sponsored by Representative Talbot Ross. This bill provides funding to support the work of the Permanent Commission.

Over the summer, I got to participate in the Permanent Commission's work and I see this bill as an opportunity for the Legislature to take a significant step toward advancing racial justice in Maine. The commission's goal of eliminating disparities for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations in the State is one we must take seriously.

This bill would support the Permanent Commission's work by creating three staff positions. It would allow the Commission to appoint up to two additional members by vote of the appointed members. The Permanent Commission would serve as a resource and submit legislation and research for consideration by the Legislature.

In the pursuit of equality for all, the Maine Legislature would be taking an important step forward by passing this bill. This is an opportunity to ensure that the work of the Permanent Commission is supported in our state. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on L.D. 1034.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Fecteau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House