

Michael Mosley  
Waterville

To the Members of the Committee on State and Local Government,

My name is Michael Isreal Mosley and I am submitting testimony today in favor of funding the work of the Permanent Commission and in support of LD 1304.

Earlier this year I submitted testimony on LD 2, an Act to Require the Inclusion of Racial Impact Statements in the Legislative process. During that testimony I said that Maine needs to begin to put its money where it's mouth is on issues impacting Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. That still holds true to this day and is even more true today with the public hearing on this bill.

I have worked with nonprofits and I even chair a county Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. What I can speak to here in this space is that we live in a Capitalist society. That means that in our society if you value something then you are willing to pay to obtain it or support it.

So that begs the question: do we value this work? Do we value the work of addressing the embarrassment of having the worst racial disparity in Covid cases in America despite People of Color only making up a handful of the population? Do we value the work of addressing the reality that 26% of the homeless population are People of Color? Do we value the work of ensuring that our legislation and our policies as a state do not exacerbate instead of alleviate longstanding economic and educational disparities?

I can't answer that. Only the members of this committee and the elected representatives of the State Legislature can answer that. This committee can answer yes by voting Ought to Pass and the Legislature can affirm that by voting this bill into law.

Thank you for your time today.