

Cheryl Seymour
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Honorable Committee Members,
My name is Cheryl Seymour and I am a family physician living in Hallowell, Maine.

I strongly encourage your support of LD 1304 in order to fund the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations in a sustainable manner.

I have worked as a physician, supporting the health of people from immigrant, migrant and Native American communities, for almost twenty years. I have learned from my patients that policies, laws and community systems and structures have as large an impact on their day to day health as any medicine, procedure or behavior change. Decisions made by the state government can dramatically affect the health of individual people, whether it be by creating access to life-saving resources or by ending policies that lead to (inadvertant) harm. As a primary care physician I view the work of the Commission as critical to our shared goal of ending health disparities in Maine.

With the passage of LD 1304, this independent commission will sustain and expand its essential work to examine racial disparities across all systems and improve opportunities and outcomes for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations in the State.

Thank you for your attention and support.