



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ICIMaine's PRESIDENT TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS IN MAINE

Immigrants Community Integration (I.C.I. Maine) is dedicated to build a community that celebrates cultural diversity and promotes economic opportunity by developing programs which ease the orientation to integration of immigrants, encompassing Asylum Seekers, Refugees and all New Mainers into the State of Maine. We believe in creating an inclusive and supportive environment where immigrants can thrive and contribute to the rich tapestry of our society.

Despite the fact that the State of Maine has done significant strides, however, there is much more work to be done.

During the consultations with ONA Plan to solicit stakeholders' inputs on the Governor Janet Mills' initiative to create the Office of New Americans in the State of Maine, to *"making Maine a home of opportunity for all, by welcoming and supporting immigrants to strengthen Maine's workforce, enhance the vibrancy of Maine's communities, and build a strong and inclusive economy."* We embraced your outreach to engage with immigrant communities for input on needs, barriers, and opportunities for New Mainers.

We are delighted that the Governor Janet Mills successfully introduced the Bill LD 2167 (HP 1387) *"An Act to Develop Maine's Economy and Strengthen Its Workforce by Establishing an Office of New Americans."* From the Executive Order to the Bill, we are highly engaged to supporting the creation of the Office of New Americans. We recognize the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the multifaceted needs of immigrants. Our organization works in perspective to strengthen partnerships and advocate to bridge gateway with stakeholders and government agencies to create a comprehensive support network for immigrants' communities.

We would like to take this opportunity to showcase some of our organization's key achievements. We developed the Administrative Support which is fully executed by COCOMAINE with the components of the DHS/ICE remote reporting, the Asylum clinic, EAD clinic. These accomplishments underline our commitment to empowering immigrants' communities which foster a welcoming environment for New Americans to thrive. we express our gratitude to the ONA Plan's dedication. We are eager to collaborate with your upcoming office to further our shared goals.

Therefore, we envision all immigrants fully integrated, actively engaged, and become productive members of the American Society.