

Shana Bloomstein  
Freedom  
LD 724

Good afternoon,

My name is Shana Bloomstein, and I reside in Freedom Maine. As a person living in a multicultural and interfaith household, I believe firmly that we should acknowledge all religious communities and honor the holidays that provide the support for prayer and spiritual practices. As a person from both that Jewish and Christian backgrounds, I found it very challenging to show up to temple for prayers and services during Jewish holidays due to the lack of acknowledgment within the school systems. My daughter frequently had to miss classes and miss days of school in order to be part of her religious and spiritual communities growing up. As our state continues to grow and become more culturally, diverse and rich, I think it is imperative that we support the cultural of religious and spiritual practices of our Muslim sisters and brothers here in Maine. I am in full support of acknowledging these religious days as holidays in the state of Maine. Thank you for your time and for your understanding and compassion! We are all Part of this community and deserve equal opportunities to practice our faith and honor one another.