

Michaela Cavallaro
PORTLAND
LD 724

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the Committee on State and Local Government,

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 724, An Act to Recognize Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as State Holidays.

Our Muslim friends and neighbors bring an invaluable richness and depth to the state of Maine. In an era when our population is aging, recent in-migration has put our economy in a stronger place than it would be otherwise. In an April 2023 article in the Maine Monitor, a spokesperson for the Maine State Economist's office said, "The recent population estimates showing strong migration into Maine are encouraging. All of our population growth over the past decade has come from migration, and this is a critical factor for employment and labor force growth."

Dozens of public schools across the country recognize Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as significant holidays that merit school closure, according to a 2023 article published by Al Jazeera. It is time for Maine to not only join that group but go a step further by designating Eid al-Fatr and Eid al-Adha as official state holidays. Maine can be a leader in this regard, supporting our Muslim friends and neighbors and honoring their contributions to our state by enshrining these important events in the Muslim calendar as state holidays.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 724.

Thank you,
Michaela Cavallaro
Portland ME