

Elmuatz Abdelrahim
New Mainers Alliance

Respected Committee Chair and Co-Chair, honorable committee members.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. I am here to speak in favor of LD 428, My name is Elmuatz Abdelrahim and I'm the Co- Executive Director of New Mainers Alliance.

I am sharing my testimony as a resident of Maine and a state tax payer since I moved to Maine in 2017. Also as a community organizer helping the New Mainers immigrant community since 2007.

During the years I was involved with different New Mainers immigrant communities I witnessed how my community contributed to the local economy by paying their fare share of taxes from their mainly minimum wage jobs and family businesses they created.

I strongly support this bill because the taxation revenue from money sent overseas using current tax loopholes will contribute to fill need in our schools, and health care system. Mainers invest a lot to create the strong economy where corporations can succeed. They benefit from Maine's schools, public roads and bridges, and services like child care and health care.

But instead of paying their fair share to sustain and improve economic conditions for future generations, they are paying an army of lawyers and accountants to exploit offshore tax havens and get out of paying taxes.

This tax avoidance scheme is unfair to Maine families and Maine-based small businesses who pay their taxes every year to support their communities while corporations use complex accounting schemes and freeload off Mainers' public investments and services.

Please vote to pass this bill to provide strong economy so our college graduates stay home and help build stronger, healthy, and safe Maine.