



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MAINE

Loring House

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April 15, 2021

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is John Hennessy and I represent the Episcopal Diocese of Maine and I serve as the co-chair of the Maine Council of Church's public policy committee. I am offering this testimony on behalf of both groups in **support** of LD 1034 – An Act to Provide Funding to Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations.

The faith community has been supportive of the Permanent Commission since the first public hearing. We believe its work to date has confirmed the need for an independent body to help individuals and policy makers acknowledge and reconcile the historic and systemic racism in Maine.

Sustained staffing and administrative support will help Maine proactively address the underlying factors that contribute to racial disparities in socioeconomic, criminal justice, and public health areas, among others.

The Episcopal Church and others recognize that structural racism is centuries old, which means our commitment must last for generations. We will always be committed to tell the truth, proclaim the dream, practice the way of love, and repair the breach. We look forward to actively participating in the work of the Permanent Commission.

Please support LD 1034.