

Kwai Chair Lippert,

Thank you for the invitation to testify on behalf of Elnu Abenaki in regard to H. 210 - "An act relating to addressing disparities and promoting equity in the health care system", and thank you for our conversation by phone just now.

I would like to affirm that Elnu as a Vermont state-recognized Tribe would be in support of the premises and objectives of this bill as substantively drafted. It is well-understood within the Native community that access to the broad benefits of citizenship are not, in fact, equitable; these social disparities can manifest in many ways, all of which affect the ability to lead fulfilling and healthful lives, within one's own culture and community.

While I do not feel that I can speak in a well-informed manner on the particulars of this bill, I do appreciate the committee's intention to include Native voices.

Wliwni - thank you,

Rich

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