

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Maine Committee on Judiciary,  
My name is Abigail Beal of Cherryfield, Maine. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

As a citizen and as a Christian, I stand in opposition of LD 1412, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law* which was submitted by Representative Reckitt.

I believe we must consider the fact that our U.S. Constitution already grants sufficient protection and promise of equality to all people through section 1 of the 14th Amendment, and the U.S. Supreme Court has already previously applied the 14th Amendment to women's issues.

The Declaration of Independence also plainly recognizes that all are created equal and have been given certain unalienable rights by our Creator. Furthermore, there are countless other laws already in place covering practically all the bases, from employment and equal pay to education and many other areas of life.

The truth is that the ERA will not give women any more rights than they already have, and, if passed, it will harm and endanger women and their children in incredibly significant ways.

While appearing to promote justice and equality, in truth this proposition seeks to erase differences between men and women. The Bible plainly states in Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." I urge you to stand against the tide of immorality that seeks to destroy God's order in family and gender distinctions.

If passed, the ERA will be used to overturn all restrictions on abortion. This absolutely breaks the 7th Commandment which tells us, "Thou shalt not kill." (See Exodus 20 and Deut. 5) It also violates the before-stated founding documents recognizing that all people have the God-given right to life and liberty.

Today we have more than sufficient evidence to prove that life begins at conception and that unborn children are indeed living, growing human beings. Therefore, by allowing abortion, we are causing children to die en masse across our nation, to the tune of millions of children missing from our society today. I believe that we have a responsibility to stand up against this evil.

There are many other ways in which LD 1412 harms and infringes upon women's purpose, dignity, and safety. This Amendment could remove gender designations in locker rooms, restrooms, jails, and hospital rooms. It could eradicate workplace laws that provide special accommodations for pregnant women. It could remove support for women in situations of abandonment by their husbands -- alimony, child support, payment of husband's debts, and requirement of husbands to pay for their wives' medical bills. And it could also require all women to be drafted into military service and front-line combat.

These are all areas of great concern to me and to many other women across our state and nation. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that as lawmakers you are responsible before God for the decisions you make. Not only will these decisions impact us as citizens here and now, but they will also affect the futures of our families for generations to come.

Where is the future of America, if not in the family structure we are destroying? Where is the future of our nation if not in the Holy Scriptures we are shunning? And where is the future of our country if not in the Constitution we are trampling?

I urge you in the name of Righteousness, Justice, and Truth to boldly stand up in opposition to LD 1412. Thank you for your time.