

Craig Bramley
Portland
LD 1412

My name is Craig Bramley. I am a resident of Portland. I am writing to express my support for LD 1412 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law.

I am an attorney and find myself recognizing that our views of rights are not necessarily protect in the ways we wish and are subject to change.

I support the passage of LD 1412 because it is time for us to enshrine our shared values of equal rights in the Maine Constitution. Though the Maine Human Rights Act has been an important tool for protecting the rights of many Mainers, it is a statute and thus limited. The MHRA is subject to change with the political winds and is limited to the specific classes defined by the law. An equal rights amendment would provide a consistent constitutional backstop - guaranteeing equal rights to all Mainers even as legislatures and administrations change. It would fulfill the promise of Article I, Section 1 of the Maine Constitution that all people are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and inalienable rights. Just over two hundred years after our Constitution was adopted, Mainers should have the opportunity to reconfirm this broad principle in an amendment that would affirm equal rights and dignity to all citizens of the State and protect these rights from being rolled back in the future.

For these reason, I ask that you pass LD 1412 and let Maine voters decide whether to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the Maine Constitution.