

Linda Mari Arnaud

Blue Hill, Maine

February 26, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of LD260, the Maine Equal Rights Amendment. Since our inception as a country, the United States of America has been regarded worldwide as a champion of freedom and justice for all. Yet, our federal constitution is the only among developed nations not to specifically protect equal rights for all citizens. In 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Federal ERA, thus satisfying all requirements delineated in Article V for amendment of the U.S. Constitution. However, five years later, we are still waiting for the Federal ERA to be published and universally recognized as the 28th Amendment.

Given the opposition that the ERA continues to face at the federal level, Mainers are dependent upon our state to grant us the full protections of citizenship.

I write to you as a woman who suffered domestic violence that went unpunished for 18 years, despite my repeated attempts to seek help from law enforcement. As a woman who has witnessed countless times my female friends doing exceptional work for less pay while their male colleagues were paid more and took the credit. And as a Daughter of the American Revolution, directly descended from the Mayflower, a Minute Man, and a Major in the Revolutionary War.

I love this country and our beautiful State of Maine dearly. I am a patriot. And it is in my blood to fight for freedom. This is the 21st century. It is high time our state constitution update itself to protect the freedoms and rights of ALL its citizens. Please vote in favor of LD260 to protect equal rights for all, which 69% of Mainers support.

Sincerely,

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Equal Rights Maine
LD 260

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