

Mariah Reed
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LD 260 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All
Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

March 4, 2025

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing
Committee Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee about this important issue regarding the rights of Mainers. My name is Mariah Reed, I am a resident of Portland, and I am here as an individual who has dedicated my career to public service. I am writing this testimony in support of LD 260. My grandmother spent time as a young person advocating for the Equal Right Amendment to be passed at the federal level. Many of the issues of jeopardizing equal rights of all are threatened again today. It is imperative that Maine ensure that its citizens have access to true equality. In Maine, half of the homicides are committed in the context of domestic violence. It has not even been 50 years since Charlie Howard, a young gay man, was murdered in Bangor. This protection is needed especially as violence against trans people increases - nearly doubling between 2017 and 2021, according to congress.gov. This bill is stepping in the direction for greater safety and protection of the pursuit of happiness for those most vulnerable in our communities. For all in our community, but especially for the trans young people we all know and love, I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260. Thank you for your time.