Jane Sloven 26 Old Neck Road Scarborough February 27, 2024

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

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Jane Sloven and I am a resident of Scarborough.

This bill matters to me because although I am retired, when I initially practiced law, my focus was restorative justice and advocacy for victims of crime. When I subsequently practiced clinical social work, I treated victims of trauma and abuse from all walks of life.

I am seventy-three years of age. This period of time we are living in presents the most significant threats to equality, civil rights, civil liberty, and personal freedoms I have ever seen. I feel that it is imperative for us to enshrine in law the highest levels of protection we can offer everyone in our wonderful state of Maine.

Enshrining equal rights for all in our constitution would protect many of the people for and with whom worked from the circumstances that led to their struggles and that presently threaten their well-being and safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 260. Thank you.

Sincerely, Jane Sloven