

Lisa Katz
Damariscotta
LD 260

Honorable Judiciary Committee members,

I am writing in support of LD260, the Maine Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment bill. As protections for equal rights are threatened and potentially eroded at the national level, it becomes more important for Maine to codify and expand the rights of all of its residents. I am a clinical social worker and work with individuals who have experienced discrimination and currently feel a lack of safety due to their membership in a marginalized or "othered" group. Working in a high school, I saw that teens who identify as non-binary, queer, or trans are a particularly vulnerable population who feel attacked and unsupported by much of our culture. They are dealing with high rates of depression and suicide risk. They need our advocacy and support more than ever.

I ask that you each vote to support this bill.

Thank you,
Lisa Katz, LCSW