

Elizabeth Franklin
Cumberland, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Member of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity address the Committee. My name is Beth Franklin, and I am a resident of Cumberland.

I'm writing today in support of LD 260, the Maine Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment bill. I'm old enough to remember a time when it was socially acceptable and common practice to deny benefits and opportunities to women because of their gender. I have witnessed female friends get passed over for a promotion because there was too much risk awarding a position to a woman who may, at some point, take maternity leave. I've seen men get promotions because "they have to support a family," as if a woman does not.

We think that won't happen today, but there is no question that minority rights are currently being challenged and rolled back. It is a privilege to live in a state that has already passed legislation to ratify a federal constitutional amendment, and there's no question that it should also be part of our own state constitution.

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.