

Jenny Martinez Nocito
Mount Vernon, Maine
March 4, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you today. My name is Jenny Martinez Nocito, I am a resident of Mount Vernon, Maine, and I am fully in support of the passage of LD 260, Maine's Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment bill.

Please take a moment to look around you, right now. It's all too easy to think that the people who surround you default to having the same rights and opportunities as you do, but that is not true. Some have more rights; others less: the point is, *we are not all equal in the eyes of the law, and that matters*. The ERA seeks to remedy that situation, to give everyone as fair an experience as possible.

As a woman, and mother of two children in the LGBTQ+ community, the stakes of not having constitution-guaranteed equality are high. The imbalance of a system that does not ensure equality is frankly shocking in modern times, particularly given the charge government has to update the Constitution (at both federal and state levels) to stay consistent with modern mores. The lack of such action continues to negatively impact individuals in every aspect of our lives from healthcare to housing to the workplace. It impacts our *safety*. The rationale for not passing such a bill can only be the desire to perpetuate the imbalance created by outdated beliefs dating back to the forging of the constitution, when women were legally seen as lesser beings and the LGBTQ+ community was not even recognized as existing. Maine is so much better than our current constitution, lacking this amendment, reflects.

I heartily urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260, and know that your support will make life better for me, for my children, and for Mainers across the state. Thank you.

Jenny Martinez Nocito

Jenny Martinez Nocito
Mount Vernon
LD 260

Jenny Martinez Nocito
Mount Vernon, Maine
March 4, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you today. My name is Jenny Martinez Nocito, I am a resident of Mount Vernon, Maine, and I am fully in support of the passage of LD 260, Maine's Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment bill.

Please take a moment to look around you, right now. It's all too easy to think that the people who surround you default to having the same rights and opportunities as you do, but that is not true. Some have more rights; others less: the point is, we are not all equal in the eyes of the law, and that matters. The ERA seeks to remedy that situation, to give everyone as fair an experience as possible.

As a woman, and mother of two children in the LGBTQ+ community, the stakes of not having constitution-guaranteed equality are high. The imbalance of a system that does not ensure equality is frankly shocking in modern times, particularly given the charge government has to update the Constitution (at both federal and state levels) to stay consistent with modern mores. The lack of such action continues to negatively impact individuals in every aspect of our lives from healthcare to housing to the workplace. It impacts our safety. The rationale for not passing such a bill can only be the desire to perpetuate the imbalance created by outdated beliefs dating back to the forging of the constitution, when women were legally seen as lesser beings and the LGBTQ+ community was not even recognized as existing. Maine is so much better than our current constitution, lacking this amendment, reflects.

I heartily urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260, and know that your support will make life better for me, for my children, and for Mainers across the state. Thank you.

Jenny Martinez Nocito