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Penobscot
LD 260
RE; LD 260
Maine Judiciary Committee
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As a New Englander, current Mainer, we know our corner of the US is a powerful example for the rest of the US. WE are the education and economic engines of the US. Even Maine gains its place as geography has its influence.

However, we have witnessed the slow, steady buildup of our destruction by Opus Dei-Maine's Susan Collins, Leo Leonard, Victor Orban's Danube Institute morphed into Project 2025 with gerrymandered splendor in the last election. Richy Rich and the Corporations buyout of US rules and regulations over the past 45 years has finally gutted principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. The precious ERA amendment lays like a shot bird struggling on its side to survive. No one able to save her seemingly.

It becomes incumbent upon far sighted folk to protect their gains. AS a highly educated woman, trained in the values of JFK, "ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country," I never imagined that my country would backslide from the heart of this value or even from its intentions. But, we find ourselves in ugly aspects of human consciousness, places we have witnessed in human herstory, but we thought we were passed this. WE are NOT.

If I had ever imagined this betrayal of my rights, both personal and professional, I would have found another country and dedicated myself to these community values elsewhere. Do you begin to understand how many Nurses, MDs, educated folk, professionals are exiting RED US states as we witness the degradation of US values into fear, money, insatiable greed, pulling us backwards 100 years? Fear is a follower, not a leader of the GOOD.

Each US state has the option to declare its intentions before a greater exodus begins as the US fails every value it has ever espoused. You will be left with the DREGS. Do you want this? Or, do you want to declare the legal validity of DEI, whose necessity we are currently viewing in real time as we witness the "ugly demise of ole white men and their angry progeny" dragging us into hellholes we could not have imagined a decade ago. Even the federal voter ID law regarding last names being consistent on a birth certificate with current name in the face of the US custom of 51%+ taking their partners name at marriage, is yet another attack on women. No power over our body. Loosing the vote???

AS a state, Maine must pass its ERA LD 260, if we want to continue human potential for goodness. WE have seen that implied laws do not offer adequate protection from the inevitable fallback of the tides as they rise and fall.