

March 2, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity for citizens such as myself to hope for the passage of an Equal Rights Amendment once again. I have fought for the Equal Rights Amendment for over 44 years. Sadly, women and minorities have not had the same rights as men. When I worked on the passage of an ERA, I did it to help myself. Now, I want it to pass to protect my three daughters and two granddaughters. My three grandsons already have equal rights because they are men. In so many arenas, women and minorities do not have equal rights such as in equal pay, equal settlements in divorce, equal opportunities in the workplace, to name a few. In important documents, only male pronouns are used. Legally, how can a woman point to such a document and say she is protected as well when her gender is left out.

These are challenging times no matter what your political viewpoint. Please protect women and minorities by adding the ERA into the Maine constitution.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260. Thank you!"

Sincerely,

Elaine Gerard
Penobscot, Maine