

Louise Poppema
New Gloucester, ME
LD 260

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Regarding the Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment (LD 260)

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

I appreciate this opportunity to write to you to express my strong support of LD 260. My name is Louise Poppema and I am a resident of New Gloucester, Maine.

As a woman starting professional work in the late 70s, I encountered direct discrimination in hiring, when informed that I would not be hired because this potential employer "...already had a woman", and endured sexual harassment in the workplace, as when I was told, "Of course I'll sign that court order you've prepared if you come and give me a little kiss". I know, compared to what people under this new, present federal administration are now experiencing, I had it easy.

I believe that now, more than ever, it is essential that all protected classes be treated equally and with respect. I was horrified to hear that the Dine people in Arizona and New Mexico were being advised to carry their papers with them as they were being swept up by ICE personnel seeking illegal aliens. Maine must not let this sort of behavior happen in our state and must step up to protect all of our basic human rights especially in light of what is currently occurring at the national level.

Thank you for considering my perspective and I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 260.

Respectfully,
Louise Poppema