

Kim Michel
Waldoboro
LD 260

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

My name is Kim Michel, I'm a resident of Waldoboro, and I appreciate the opportunity to address the Committee. I am testifying in support of LD 260, the Maine Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment bill. Though Maine currently has the Maine Human Rights Act as law to prevent and address discrimination, equal rights should be codified more firmly for all people in the State Constitution by passing LD 260. Having equal rights explicitly guaranteed in the Maine Constitution would be a more robust step in guaranteeing equal protection under the law for people in all protected classes, as 29 other states in the U.S. have already done.

This amendment would help myself, family members, loved ones, and colleagues in the LGBTQI community know their human rights are solidly guaranteed in Maine, and that there are robust protections against discrimination in place here. This is especially important and urgent in this moment when basic rights of LGBTQI people to exist and engage in the public sphere are being attacked and actively eroded in countless places in the nation. It would give peace of mind to so many Maine residents and visitors to the state for Maine to send a powerful message by enshrining equal rights for all in the 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.