

Jenifer Dean
South Portland
LD 260

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South Portland, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Judiciary, thank you for taking the time to read this letter in support of LD 260.

As a woman in this country I have been the object of multiple scenarios of sexual misconduct, discrimination, outright bias and disdain. I have experienced this even to the level of having pressed charges against a male employer who used his power over me to threaten me with losing my job when I wouldn't go on a date with him.

I was lucky that the justice system backed me to stand up for my own rights as a woman against this person. This is a safety net that was much needed by me as a very young and naive 24 year old girl.

Having someone in power use that power against you is terrifying. Considering what just occurred to a young trans person here in our state with Representative Libby is the perfect example of what that inequality and misuse of power looks like. Everyone deserves the protections provided by our constitution, not just those who have power over others.

This bill would help so many people of all races, genders, and backgrounds to stand on equal ground just like so many other states have already said is a constitutional right. Considering the Trump administration's clear actions against equal rights, now must be the time to pass this bill.

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

Sincerely,
Jenifer Dean