

Dear Judiciary Chair Representative Matt Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to provide testimony in support of LD 1412, "Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law."

Everyone here today should be aware of the recent events that unfolded at an Idaho town hall meeting. A doctor asking questions regarding the right to bodily autonomy was belittled by a man with a microphone as nothing more than a "little girl." She was then forcibly dragged from the premises by unidentified men with a crowd watching on while she asked who they were and where they were taking her.

Today I will not be a part of a crowd watching on.

I'm writing to urge you to enshrine in Maine's constitution the rights of ALL citizens, regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin by passing the Equal Rights Amendment.

I learned from a young age that there is a different set of rules for each gender and that society would compel me to follow the ones laid out for me as a woman, or I would pay the consequences just as the world witnessed in Idaho last week. At first, my own privilege blinded me to the fact that more than these two sets of rules exist: there are those that apply to various races, sexual orientation or gender identity, physical or mental ability, and on and on. As I've grown older, I've made efforts to educate myself on how best to identify and dismantle these unequal rules. The ERA is an undeniable example of what the state of Maine should do to this end, and I implore you to pass this today.

Ally Miola
Resident of Biddeford, Maine

Allyson Miola
Biddeford
LD 260

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