

Kale Vonderau  
Corinth  
LD 260

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

I am so grateful and appreciative to be able to address the Committee today. My name is Kale Vonderau, I am a resident of Corinth and I am here as a representative of the Queer and disabled community, enthusiastically in favor of LD260.

I am a person who is directly affected by the outcome of LD260, as is anyone with compassion and love in their hearts for living beings in this state. It is vitally important to protect those who are in need of our support and marginalized communities against harmful discrimination, we are all deserving of fair and equal treatment, let our policy reflect that. Having equal rights protections in place would ease the chronic anxiety and suffering that comes from not being supported by your community and government. This would show the backbone of Maine as a state that is loyal and fair to ALL its citizens, and be an example of what support and deeper understanding of the needs of its people looks like. LD260 would give new tools to combat discrimination and violations of civil rights, at a state level. There is no guarantee for fair treatment unless Maine can do the right thing, following the lead of 29 other states. As Maya Angelou said, "When we know better, we do better," let's do better together and ensure equality for all. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with you, I humbly ask that you vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260, thank you!