

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine
March 4, 2025

Re: LD 260. Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

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

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 260.

My interest in ending discrimination started when I was youth. I experienced immense joy and satisfaction in living in a very diverse community. Moreover, I was a teenager in an era when many of my peers enthusiastically fought for many kinds of human rights. I also have a fond memory of the 1964 World's Fair in New York which brought together people from around the country and the world. I particularly loved UNICEF's and Pepsi's It's a Small World Pavilion built by Disney which featured a ride that showcased three-foot-tall dolls authentically dressed as children from around the world singing the song It's a Small World, which to me was a song of inclusivity. The lyrics touched my heart.

Still, I experienced as well as observed both blatant and subtle acts of discrimination and harassment which pained me immensely and affected my life course. I became a sociologist and specialized in all aspects of discrimination and social stratification. Later, I became an employment law attorney and focused, in part, on employment discrimination. I have witnessed both the beauty and promise of inclusivity and the horrors of systemic and individual discrimination and harassment.

This bill, LD 260, matters to me because equal rights remain an elusive goal for our state and country. Indeed, right now Mainers face a perilous time in which substantial gains in equal rights made in the last half century are being significantly weakened or outright abolished. LD 260 would help prevent any rollbacks of human rights by the courts or legislative bodies. It provides a strong protection from which all Mainers would benefit.

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

Anne Gallaudet, Scarborough, ME