

Lauren Perreault
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
March 4, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Lauren Perreault and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth. I am writing today in support of LD 260.

At a time of such uncertainty in our nation with federal protections for equal rights being eroded on a daily basis, LD260 provides an oasis of hope for Maine residents, and indeed for the nation. The passage of this bill would bring about a great collective sigh of relief among the many Maine people whose identities fall outside the mainstream for any reason, and for their loved ones. In my personal case, my identity is of mixed definitions. I am Jewish by ethnicity, I am hearing-impaired, and I am a woman in an era when even being a woman seems to place a person in a marginalized status. The notion that I could be discriminated against by the State of Maine based on any of these identities has been, until now, outside the realm of something I felt the need to worry about. But the moment has changed, and our state has the chance to set an example of leadership for the rest of our nation — to send the message that all rights afforded in this state should be afforded to all people, equally.

The passage of LD260 would bring a great sense of relief to me as a Maine resident. As a mother of three children, two of whom are girls, I fear for a future where their protections are taken away.

I urge you to support LD260. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.

Sincerely,
Lauren Perreault

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