



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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### **LD 260 RESOLUTION, 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 esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary, I offer testimony today to express my strong support for this amendment to the Constitution of Maine. This proposal affirms the fundamental principle that every person—regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin—must be guaranteed equal rights under the law. By enshrining these protections in our state’s constitution, we ensure that no individual is denied their rights or subjected to discrimination by the state or any of its political subdivisions based on who they are or how they are perceived.

This amendment will be decided by the people of Maine through a statewide referendum, allowing voters to affirm their commitment to equality and fairness, and when passed, will help facilitate an Equal Rights Amendment finally being added to the U.S. Constitution. I urge the committee to support this resolution and allow the people of Maine to make their voices heard in this historic decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerry Runte".

Gerry Runte