

Megan Wilson  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 260

Megan Jo Wilson  
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Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,  
Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee in this written testimony.

My name is Megan Jo Wilson and I'm a resident of Cape Elizabeth and writing today in support of LD 1412, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law". I write today on behalf of my daughter and to stand for gender justice for all Mainers.

As I'm sure you already know, Women in Maine still make between .66 and .88 cents for every \$1.00 a white man makes, are more likely to experience sexual harassment and violence, and are more likely to be discriminated against in the workplace. The data shows us that living in Maine is even more harmful for women who live every day in a codified culture of racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and discrimination based on differing abilities.

An amendment to our Constitution won't solve all of these problems but, there are a few very specific circumstances that this Amendment could address - specially in offering protections where the Maine Human Rights Act is silent (gender-based or racially-motivated violence, pay equity, and clarifying that all Mainers who are harmed by discrimination based on gender, race, religion, ability, and nation or origin are equally protected and valued under the law.

As a patriot and mother of a Queer mixed-race daughter who will soon be joining the workforce of Maine, I want to be able to assure her that our Maine leadership did the right thing by writing equity into our state's foundational documents.

We are grateful for all you do and will be tracking this issue until it reflects the people it is meant to serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260!