

Sara Green-Hamann
Bangor
LD 260

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Bangor, Maine
February 28, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Sara Green-Hamann, and I am a resident of Bangor. I am here today in support of LD 260, because I believe all people in Maine deserve equal protection under the law.

As a mother, I have watched my son thrive in the theater community. He is a white, cisgender, straight young man who has had the privilege of growing up in a supportive environment. Through his involvement in theater, he has formed deep friendships with individuals who are gay, transgender, female, and other minorities. These young people bring immense talent, kindness, and strength to their communities, yet they often face barriers and discrimination that my son will never have to experience. This is not just unfair—it is unacceptable.

Equal protection under the law is not just a principle; it is a necessity. Studies show that LGBTQ+ individuals and marginalized groups face higher rates of workplace discrimination, housing instability, and unequal treatment in legal settings. Without LD 260, these disparities will continue, leaving many vulnerable to systemic inequities. Now is the time to ensure that every Mainer—regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, or background—is granted the same rights and protections as anyone else.

If LD 260 passes, it will affirm that Maine values and protects all of its residents equally. My son's friends, and thousands of others like them, will be able to live and work in a state that recognizes their worth and ensures their rights. This bill is about fairness, dignity, and creating a Maine where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 260. Thank you!