

Megan Molloy
Old Orchard Beach, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Judiciary, thank you for providing the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Megan Molloy and I am a resident of Old Orchard Beach and a senior at the University of Southern Maine. I am writing to you to express my support of LD 260.

As a senior at the University of Southern Maine majoring in sociology, I have spent years studying the social dynamics that shape our communities and the policies that impact them. Growing up in a progressive, community-first town in Connecticut, I saw firsthand how inclusivity and justice can enrich the lives of everyone in our communities. This belief is why I am proud to support the passage of LD 260 in Maine.

From my time spent in the classroom learning about social systems and policies and how they inform our daily lives, my time working with students facing behavioral challenges in Portland, and my experiences helping new Mainers navigate the complex institutions and expectations that we exist within, what I continue to be reminded of is that equality is not a privilege, but a human right.

I want to raise my children in a world where these rights are guaranteed for everyone and our differences are celebrated and protected. Maine's ERA would enshrine this equality in our state constitution, ensuring that every individual has access to the same rights and protections under the law.

Perhaps it is my own experiences as a woman, perhaps the fact that I was raised by a single mother who worked as a nurse and consistently put others before herself, despite a world that constantly told her she was less than, or maybe it is simply an understanding that we should all be regarded with the same respect and protection under the law that has shaped by deep commitment to the principles of equality and justice. Either way, I hope you share in my support of LD 260.

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