

Louise Secordel
Scarborough
LD 260

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Scarborough, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Judiciary. My name is Louise Secordel, I'm a resident of Scarborough, and I'm in support of LD 260.

We are living in chaotic, scary times, where many national and global leaders are sowing hatred, divisiveness and confusion in an effort to gain more power and wealth. This divisiveness negatively impacts our Maine communities and economy. I fear for my neighbors and friends, many of whom are the first to be targeted by the Trump administration, including LGBTQ+ individuals and Black and Brown immigrants. Some are avoiding school or nervous about being out in public due to fear of deportation. Many youth are feeling anxious and hopeless, which will only exacerbate our mental health crisis. I fear for us all, because when the rights of some are threatened, everyone's rights become vulnerable. Who will they come for next?

Yet, I remain hopeful that we can overcome adversity, especially in Maine, where we have a rich history of bipartisanship, civic engagement, and community building. The Maine Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment represents a concrete and powerful way to stand up to the attacks we are seeing on our democracy. Equal rights are the principles that our country was founded on, and to uphold these principles, we have a responsibility to adapt and update our Constitution as we keep learning and growing.

The majority of U.S. states already have an ERA in their constitutions. It's time for Maine to catch up and ensure these same protections for all its residents. When we protect the rights of every Mainer, we are stronger together. Now is the time to stand up for our democracy, before it's too late.

I have deep gratitude to all who have tirelessly worked to make LD 260 possible, to protect me, my family, my friends, my fellow Mainers. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260.