

Heidi McInerney  
Cape Elizabeth  
LD 260

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March 4, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Heidi McInerney. I'm a resident of Cape Elizabeth and would like to provide written testimony in support of LD 260.

As a woman who has lived in Maine for 32 years, I find it stunning that the state I love has not adopted the Equal Rights Amendment into our state constitution. Women make up 50.7% of Maine's population—how is it that the rights and protections that are/were available to my son and (deceased) husband are not available to my daughter and myself? In my life, I've been paid less for the same job that my male counterparts have been paid for, and I've been groped at work by male co-workers. Why is that okay?

The passage of LD 260 would support stronger enforcement of equal pay laws, helping to close the gender wage gap. It would strengthen protections against workplace discrimination based on gender, including issues like pregnancy discrimination and sexual harassment.

The passage of the ERA would show that our state values and protects all its citizens. Maine is stronger when all Mainers are treated equally.

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