

Rebecca Carr  
Yarmouth  
LD 260

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Yarmouth, Maine  
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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 Rebecca Carr and I am a resident of Yarmouth. I am writing today in support of LD 260 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law.

On July 9, 1978 my grandmother attended the March for the Equal Rights Amendment in Washington DC. I have a picture of her on my desk in a white suit holding a sign that says "Remember the ERA." Today I advocate for the ERA in remembrance of her. Despite the 55 years between us, we shared the lived experience of being a woman in a society designed for men. She taught me how to navigate that society while continuing to break down barriers in her career as a nurse, a mother, a widow, an advocate for patients with HIV/AIDS, and through the end of her life, just shy of age 91 where she continued to advocate for women and other underrepresented populations.

Now as the mother of two young girls, it is more important to me than ever for our laws to reflect a just society for all. I want my girls to grow up in a state where it is clear that they are protected from discrimination and where systemic discrimination is called out and confronted. I want this not just for them as girls but also for their friends and classmates who are trans, gay, black, Jewish, Muslim or who belong to any other group that has faced discrimination in our state. Protecting rights for all does not mean taking rights away from others.

In our current political landscape where the human rights of many are under attack, it is critical that Maine stands clear in its language to protect the rights of all Mainers. Thank you.