

Sherrilynn Smith  
Belgrade Lakes  
LD 260

My name is Sherrilynn Sperling Smith and I am a resident of Belgrade Lakes. I AM HERE IN SUPPORT OF LD 260. I am a retired attorney, mother of 3 and grandmother of 5. I have been working on passage of an Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution since 1978. I was part of the 2024-25 push to get the ERA recognized as the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution.

I realized as a young girl that I was competing on an uneven playing field (if I was allowed on the field at all) and resolved that I would do all that I could during my life to equalize opportunities for women and girls. The final boost to this resolve was provided by my high school superintendent after I had won a full National Merit Scholarship. In congratulating my mother (a teacher in the school system) he noted that it was too bad that I wasn't a boy who would make better use of the opportunity provided by the scholarship. At 17 I was crushed and horrified and then just plain angry. I am sure every woman here today has experienced and continues to experience many such moments in their lives. Laws have been passed and attitudes adjusted over the years but...

...We need Equality to be a part of our foundational legal documents, both in Maine and in the nation. We are all experiencing daily now, just how easy it is to ignore and/or overturn laws granting equality of rights. Only constitutional guarantees have a chance of withstanding the attack we are under. WE NEED TO DO THIS NOW.

I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260. Thank you