

Mia Dawbin
Gardiner
LD 260

Hello, my name is Mia Dawbin, I am 22 years old and I am in support of equal rights for all. I believe all humans have an inherent, inalienable, and EQUAL value - and I believe that at heart, most people agree on that sentiment. It was fairly popular at the time of the Declaration of Independence at least, or so we have been told.

I would like to tell you a bit about myself: I was raised in the LDS faith, previously known as "Mormons". I was taught over the pulpit that gay rights were a threat to their religion, and that I was divinely appointed to be either male or female and my destined role in life was contingent upon that designation. That ideology is difficult to maintain in a time when both parents need to work in most family in order to survive. It is also difficult to maintain, as a hard and fast rule, when intersex people exist. Not everyone is born specifically with either two x chromosomes or and x and a y, a significant number of people have a less common genetic configuration.

Personally, I identify as "genderqueer", which has seemingly become a big and scary word to many. To me, it means that, despite my 'female' body, I see myself as "one of the guys". My past experiences of misogyny and sexual harassment keep me from identifying as a man. You might prefer the term tomboy, but I appreciate the solidarity I get from being in the genderqueer community. I have never felt harassed, threatened, or creeped on by a transgender/genderqueer person. I have felt threatened by plenty of men.

In the years since transitioning away from the LDS faith, I have once again found a sense of religion and spirituality at the Universalist Unitarian church, where I can learn about multiple faiths and receive positive messages of love and acceptance within community.

This bill presents us all with a choice: agree to respect every human as inherently valuable regardless of their identity (religious, racial, and gender/sex/sexuality wise) and secure your own rights in writing, permanently, within the state of Maine, or stand alone at risk of tyranny.

As the oldest state in the country, our state has a critical lack of young people. People want to raise kids in places where they know their kids will have a shot at dignity and basic human decency. Let's cement Maine as that beacon of hope for young people of ALL varieties and confirm their inalienable worth, under the law, in writing. In this time of threat to our individual liberties, please vote "ought to pass" on LD 260.