

**Testimony in support of LD 1647
to the Committee on Judiciary**

April 28, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of LD 1647, An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act to Provide Additional Remedies for Educational Discrimination.

Educational discrimination, like any kind of discrimination, harms all of us. Research, development, discovery and advancement requires diverse perspectives, experiences and intellect. The stress of intentional education discrimination impacts a person's health, their ability to advance, their family's ability to advance, and their ability to participate in community. I am at a loss for words to better describe why I support LD 1647. Discrimination is harmful. It causes individual harm, family harm, and community harm. Discrimination is an injustice. When we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance we end by proclaiming "with liberty and justice for all". That is why I support LD 1647.

I hope you will support equality of education for all by supporting LD 1647.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson
Sanford, Maine.