

River Knight
Biddeford ME
LD 10

LD 10 (2025) — An Act to Add Political Affiliation as a Protected Class to the Maine Human Rights Act

Senator Libby and the judiciary.

My name is River Knight. I go to the alternative pathways center in Biddeford ME. As a student, I strongly support an Act to Add Political Affiliation as a Protected Class to the Maine Human Rights Act.

Students are encouraged to engage in civic life, learn about government, and form our own political beliefs. However, many young people fear that expressing those beliefs could negatively affect future employment, housing, or educational opportunities. That fear discourages participation and weakens our democracy.

Political affiliation is a deeply personal aspect of identity, especially for students who are still learning how to engage thoughtfully and responsibly in public discourse. No one should face discrimination for their political views simply for participating in the democratic process.

By adding political affiliation as a protected class, Maine sends a clear message that respectful disagreement is not a reason for exclusion or punishment. This law would help ensure that students can learn, grow, and participate in civic life without fear of discrimination.

I urge you to support this legislation and protect the rights of current and future generations of Mainers.

Sincerely, River Knight