

MAINE RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE

March 7, 2019

Testimony

LD 433

Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual

Good afternoon Senator Carpenter, Representative Bailey and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Trish Morin and I represent the Maine Right to Life Committee in opposition to LD 433. Maine Right to Life is an affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee and is a statewide non-profit organization. The MRLC was founded to protect and uphold the dignity and worth of each human life from conception to natural death. Our education, social action and advocacy provides a voice for those who cannot defend themselves.

Maine Right to Life strongly opposes this resolution unless it specifically states that it has nothing to do with abortion. If LD 433 were to be enacted, it could invalidate any limitations on abortion, including late term abortions and birth day abortions. Additionally, it would require unlimited government-funded elective abortions. Our state and nation already have laws in place to ensure equality, fairness, and safety.

If enacted, LD 433 would also cause irreversible damage to women. Please consider that this resolution would allow that ANY sex-based distinction in a law would be unconstitutional. (Laws banning abortion would clearly make a sex-based distinction because only women become pregnant.) Look at what would become damaging issues for women: LD 433 would open doors for co-ed domestic abuse centers, co-ed prisons, hospital rooms, locker rooms and dressing rooms. LD 433 would subject women to competing with men in sports and sports scholarships. Women could be drafted in times of war. Women who have children would no longer receive child support from the father; now this resolution would affect those children's wellbeing as well. The list of egregious possibilities that will occur if this resolution is passed are endless and thereby takes us all back in time to not-so fair practices of equality.

This resolution purports equality for women, yet the language being invoked here in Maine and across the country seems to create a 'sameness' between men and women. We are not the same and never will be. It is in our differences that we complete each other. Today, we should be embracing womanhood in all of its uniqueness and wonderful ways as being equal but not the same as man.

Maine Right to Life would like for you to consider drafting legislation to protect the lives of all the unborn women waiting to become the American citizen they are destined to be, instead of reworking laws that already exist in the 5th and 14th Amendments as well as Title IX.

Please vote "OUGHT NOT PASS" on LD 433.

Thank you.