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*Testimony of Representative Suzanne Salisbury in support of*  
**LD 1412, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine**  
**Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Sue Salisbury. I represent House District 128, which is part of the town of Westbrook. I am here today to speak in strong support of **LD 1412, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law.**

As a mother, sister, aunt, daughter and elected official, I feel it is my duty to testify in favor of this bill. The fact that this has to even be discussed, let alone multiple times over the course of many years tells me that while we have come a long way in this country, we have a long way still to go.

I may not have to have my husband's approval to get a credit card or a loan anymore, but I still do not have the protection under the constitution that my male counterparts do.

About three years ago I had a representative from Bathfitter come to my house to give me a quote on a new bathtub. After the man completed the measurements and gathered the information, he needed he asked if I wanted to wait for my husband to get home before he went over the quote. I said no and asked him to leave that I wasn't interested in the quote. When I worked in EMS, and I showed up with a female partner we would often get asked who was going to drive the ambulance for us.

I have heard it said that this change to the Constitution of Maine is not necessary, but I have to disagree. If we can't even have this conversation in our everyday lives, how can we know that this protection is even there when it truly matters?

It is time to make this change, I urge the committee to vote yes on this important bill!