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Testimony of Rep. Jan Dodge in support of
**LD 1412, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Protection Under the Law
Before the Judiciary Committee**

Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Jan Dodge, and I represent House District #39, Belfast, Northport and Belmont. I am before you today to testify in strong support of **LD 1412, a Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law.**

I am also here to honor the strong women in my family heritage. I honor my great-grandmother who supported her family as a divorced single mom while working as a teacher in an era before divorce was common. I honor my grandmother who treasured her right to vote and lived to know that the Equal Rights Amendment had passed in the U.S. Congress in 1972, but died before Maine ratified in 1974. Her role as my cheerleader began early in my life with her phrase, "Who knows where your little feet will go?" I honor my mother and father who encouraged me and my brother to ignore gender barriers.

I stand here as a member of the 131st Maine State Legislature to honor the belief that protections for human rights must be part of our constitution. May committee votes and our votes on the House floor provide the path for Maine voters to decide.

Thank you.