

**Statement by  
Penny Morrell  
To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Regarding**

**LD 1412 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law**

**April 24, 2023**

Sen. Carney, Rep. Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present before you. I am Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of Belgrade, Maine.

I am opposed to LD 1412. This is the same Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) bill Rep. Lois Reckitt has promised to sponsor every session of the Maine Legislature until it is passed. All the reasons why this bill is not tenable have been explained every session. Yet, she seems determined to have it her way regardless of what Maine voters and citizens are telling her and any other legislators who support it.

The ERA bill is about abortion on demand, taxpayer funded, all restrictions off, and LGBTQ special privileges not afforded those not of that persuasion. Across our country, this has been defeated because it isn't about equal rights, it's about special rights for some and not for others. Our Constitution protects all individuals and treats everyone fairly. L.D. 1412 would amend our Constitution unfavorably.

Please vote L.D. 1412 "ought not to pass".