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Senator Anne Carney, Senate Chair
Representative Amy Kuhn, House Chair
Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333

Testimony of Co-Sponsor Rep. Lynn Holland Copeland in support of:
**LD 260, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That
All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law**
Before the Joint Standing Judiciary Committee

Senator Carney, Representative Huhn and honorable members of the Judicial Committee, my name is Lynn Holland Copeland, and I am proud to represent my neighbors in House District 130, a beautiful part of Saco. My testimony today is as a co-sponsor in support of LD 260, *Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law*.

Following in the footsteps of the Honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt and the many advocates over the years advocating for We The People to once and for all include *all* Maine citizens, I am proud to stand up for women's rights. Instead of dividing people into different silos, or groups, it is clear that all people deserve equal protections under the law, without any implied or other exclusions.

The inequity felt by so many women, and others, is unjust, and cannot be tolerated. The same pay for the same work is common sense. Bodily autonomy is a human right, not to be imposed upon by other's beliefs. No one is better than or above anyone else; we are all equally human. People can hold their own beliefs, but there is no right to infringe on others' rights to be completely human. It is past time to come together as Maine people, without classification or hierarchy, and declare that all Mainers are We The People with the same rights under the law.

The inclusion of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of Maine will ultimately be decided by Maine voters. My ask is that this honorable Committee vote unanimously in favor of this proposed amendment so that the rights of all Maine people can be protected.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynn H. Copeland