

MAINE ERA
for all!

March 4, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Catie Reed and I join you today on behalf of the **Maine ERA for All! Coalition**. Our Coalition is a broad group of partner organizations across the state committed to establishing equal protections for all into Maine's constitution.

In the face of successful and attempted rollbacks of civil rights, the need for equal protection in Maine's constitution has never been clearer: we must recognize and protect all Mainers in our constitution to help ensure Maine remains a state rooted in equality now and into the future.

Passing LD 260 would be a critical step forward in establishing equal protections in our state. *It's time for Maine to do the right thing* – both symbolically and practically – for all Mainers, joining 29 states who have already established similar measures.

We're calling on Maine lawmakers to pass LD 260 so that Maine voters have the opportunity to weigh in on the rights in their constitution. And we know that Mainers want equal protections enshrined in Maine's constitution. Public polling conducted this fall showed that:

- **79%** of respondents support the creation of a Maine Equal Rights Amendment to protect against discrimination based on sex and gender.
- **And 97% of those individuals support the "inclusive" language currently in LD 260** to protect against discrimination based on all of the protected classes in the Maine Human Rights Act.
 - This opinion is consistent across political parties, with support from 90% of Democrats, 79% of Independents and 56% of Republicans

Passing LD 260 through the legislature sends a strong message to Mainers, and the country, that Maine values equality, equal opportunity and equal protection for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to your Committee. **We urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260. Thank you!**

Sincerely,

Catie Reed, Maine ERA for All! Coalition,



Maine ERA for All! Coalition:

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District 1
Community Organizing Alliance
Equal Rights Maine
EqualityMaine
Grandmothers for Repro Rights
League of Women Voters
Mabel Wadsworth Center
Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Maine Council on Aging
Maine Family Planning
Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition
Maine Public Health Association
Maine TransNet
Maine Women's Lobby
Maine Youth Power
National Association of Social Workers Maine Chapter
OUT Maine
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Portland Outright
Southern Maine Racial Justice Center

Co-signed by,
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders