



March 4th, 2025

Testimony in support of LD260: Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish
That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Eli Durand-McDonnell, I am from Bar Harbor, Maine and I am the Policy Coordinator at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led, youth movement throughout rural and suburban Maine fighting to win human dignity, equity and a livable future for all. I am here today on behalf of my organization to ask that you support LD260: Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law.

This constitutional amendment would be a crucial step toward the exact future that Maine Youth Power envisions for this state: a Maine that protects *all* of its residents, that works to dismantle systemic forms of oppression, and where young people feel safe in their own identities.

Growing up in today's world can be a difficult prospect. We are witnessing rights that have been in place our entire lives be reversed, and we face an immensely uncertain future. The advancements our country has made on women's rights, protections for LGBTQ people, and racial equity feel like they could disappear in an instant. In the midst of all this uncertainty, the passage of this amendment would show young Mainers that our state still values these rights and protections, and that our government is committed to ensuring these rights will be preserved for generations to come. Simultaneously, this amendment would assure young people from all across the country that should they choose to pursue an education or a career in our state, Maine is a welcoming and inclusive place to call home.

Right now, Maine has the incredible opportunity to stand firm in its legacy of equality, and enshrine the rights of *all* its residents into the constitution. Once again, on behalf of Maine Youth Power, I urge you to support LD260.

Thank you for your consideration,
Eli Durand-McDonnell