

Maxine Adelson
York, Maine
LD 260
March 4, 2025

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

My name is Maxine Adelson and I am a senior at York High School. I am the president of Young Women's Leadership at YHS and I am the voice of young people in Maine, the future of this state, in support of LD 260. As a young woman and a recently registered voting citizen, I believe in the dignity of humanity. A value that all political parties and religions share in common is care for human life. How a human identifies, who they love, what they look like, or where they are from should not matter to the state's willingness to protect those rights. There is no rational reason to limit the protection of human rights for any human being in this state. As I decide where to build my life, whether that be in Maine or elsewhere, it is of my utmost interest how my government treats the people who live here. My generation cares about human rights, and if this inclusive amendment is not passed, many of us will leave the state, exacerbating the current labor shortage. Maine is known for its entrepreneurial nature, and with several other states ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, now is the time for us to recognize the rights of all of our citizens too. I identify as a heterosexual woman, but for myself and my generation, we do not feel threatened by those who identify or express themselves differently. We live in a world that is constantly evolving. Just look at how far we've come; I am here, as a woman, who just 100 years ago would not have been able to stand before you as a voting citizen. As a young individual stepping into adulthood, I want to see my peers and I respected as the humans that we all are, in my home state. It's going to happen at some point, so vote "Ought to pass" on LD 260 now. Thank you.