

March 4, 2025

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

We don't get to choose where we are born, yet the fact of where we are born has profound impacts on the course of a life. Four and a half years ago, I made the decision to have my baby in Maine. Today we live in a small, supportive community, near a beautiful coastline, among neighbors who embody Maine's tough and independent spirit.

My daughter and I spend a lot of time talking about how we treat other people and why. Not just obvious things, like not hitting, or taking turns and sharing, but also smaller things, like saying please and thank you. I tell her we do these things to show respect. And everyone deserves respect because everyone is equal. She doesn't really understand these concepts yet, but she will.

I want her to grow up in a state where she knows that equality under the law applies to all. And not just in matters that might affect her, like equal pay for equal work, but wherever discrimination may exist.

We should not have to read between the lines to discern whether our State Constitution protects equal rights for all. Let Maine be a state where it is a privilege to be born, because the fundamental rights of all people are clearly and unequivocally protected.

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

Tracy Eberhart
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