

Testimony in Opposition to LD 260 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

March 4, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Holly Lusk, and I am here on behalf of the Christian Civic League of Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 260 a RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

The Christian Civic League recognizes and appreciates that women have been created with a dignity equal to men, and yet with a nature distinct from men. Because of these distinctions, our country has acted to protect women from discrimination in specific ways. For example, women's educational opportunities (including access to sports) have been protected through federal Title IX laws and regulation.

The Christian Civic League does not support the Equal Rights Amendment because it could undermine legal protections that have been and should be afforded to women, for example the right of girls to play only against other girls in school sports. The Equal Rights Amendment has also been used in other states to require taxpayer funding for abortion, a policy the Christian Civic League opposes.

The Christian Civic League supports policies that honor women's unique contributions to families and society, and of course, their equal dignity. No amount of policymaking can turn women into men, nor men into women. The Equal Rights Amendment undermines equal opportunities in favor of striving toward a "sameness" that never can be achieved.

Thank you for the time to provide our perspective. We encourage the committee to vote "ought not to pass."