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Testimony of Rep. Rafael Macias in support of
**LD 522, Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to
Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and esteemed colleagues of the Labor Committee. My name is Rafael Macias, and I represent House District 51, which includes a part of Topsham. I am here today to testify in support of **LD 522, Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State.**

Back in the 80s, women weren't deployed on combatant ships, nor in fighter jets. In the 90s that all changed. They proved they were capable of defending our nation as well as any man, and they were paid the same, too. The DFAS pay scale was published for everyone to see. Knowing who was paid what was easy, we wore it on our sleeves, literally.

If we want to protect women, we could start here and pay them their due. We could protect single moms and their children from poverty. We could protect children from lawmakers wanting to work them longer and pay them less. We could protect women from bad bosses in the boardroom and children from pastors and priests behind the pulpit. There's laws you can get behind that do just that.

The question isn't whether we can protect women and children, it's whether we have the will to do so. Let's pass laws that show it.

Thank you for your time.