

Submitted by
Rep. Katherine Smith
LD 1704



Women's Declaration International

Testimony of Seana Carmody
Before the Joint Judiciary Committee
LD 1704

SUPPORT

May 6, 2025

My name is Seana Carmody. I am a resident of York County, Maine, and a signatory to the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights ("the Declaration"), a document written and promoted by Women's Declaration International (WDI), an international, politically nonpartisan group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights. The Declaration has more than 39,000 signatures globally. Women's Declaration International USA, Inc. (WDI USA) is WDI's US chapter. We aim to advance the Declaration before government bodies and to urge governments at all levels to maintain language protecting women and girls on the basis of sex rather than on "gender" or "gender identity."

Article 1 of the Declaration reaffirms that the rights of women are based on the category of sex. It states:

States should maintain the centrality of the category of sex, and not 'gender identity,' in relation to women's and girls' right to be free from discrimination.

Quoting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, it goes on to state:

States shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

It goes on to state that this should include the retention in law, policies and practice, of the category of woman to mean adult human female, the category of lesbian to mean an adult human female whose sexual orientation is towards other adult human females, and the exclusion of men who claim to have a female 'gender identity' from these categories.

Article 8 of the Declaration reaffirms the need for the elimination of violence against women.

The disastrous consequences for the safety, privacy, and dignity of women and girls of allowing males, including school boys, into designated female-only spaces such as public restrooms, changing rooms, showers, spas, and so forth, have been well demonstrated in recent years.

LD 1704 inaccurately describes sex as "assigned at birth." But because it is otherwise consistent with the Declaration, I urge you to protect Maine's women and girls by passing LD 1704.

Seana Carmody, Signatory to the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights

