

Evan Murray
Portland
LD 10

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary committee,

I am writing to ask you to oppose LD 10: An Act to Add Political Affiliation as a Protected Class to the Maine Human Rights Act.

I am generally in favor of protecting people from discrimination, but this is written too broadly; rather than combat a genuine problem, it will open the door to claims of discrimination. From what I've seen, supporters of this bill believe it is necessary to protect conservative people from discrimination based on their political beliefs; I suspect they have not thought about other groups who could claim equal protection under it.

The Ku Klux Klan is a political organization, after all. Almost anything can be deemed a political affiliation, because politics touches every area of our lives.

As written, this bill would allow anyone with a grievance to claim political discrimination, clogging our courts and increasing rather than decreasing political divisions among members of the public. I believe it would create far more problems than it would solve.

Thank you.