

Kimberly Adler
Auburn
LD 260

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and the honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

Democracy - a true democratic society - can only be achieved when equality means "We the people of Maine," rather than "We the [most, but not all] people of Maine." Today, I urge you to pass LD 260: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law. Recent and ongoing assaults upon members of protected classes by the president and his administration have no place in democracy.

Maine sets the bar high for other states as well as the nation, hence "Dirigo." To lead, one must do more speak rhetorically, rather one must act with courage and intent to do no harm. In this regard, the word democracy demands intentional empathy and overt inclusion for all persons. Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Nation asserts, "...we have to focus on our most vulnerable disenfranchised people for everyone to come from the same strength of power and opportunity. Otherwise what are we serving?" (Wabanaki Voices). While some may argue that Chief Francis is speaking of our Wabanaki people, I urge you to consider a more encompassing and global view of his words. Our most vulnerable people, transgender youth and adults, have been publicly doxxed, ridiculed, and threatened by elected officials whose vile hate seeps into the community, injects its venom into callous minds, and sparks irreparable fury and angst upon undeserving families. No human soul deserves such unequal treatment. Also at risk are members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, intersex, and asexual communities whose identities, which are invalid under the current administration, and for whom without the added protections of this resolution, would be obliterated. Let's not forget members of our communities who are of a different race or ancestry, are female, practice a different religion, have immigrated from different areas of the world, who have various physical and intellectual abilities: all are here, equally, to live and work in our beautiful state of Maine.

I urge you to pass LD 260. Consider the words of Malala Yousafzai, "We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back."

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Adler

Sources:

Wabanaki Voices. "Trump Cuts Already Having Devastating Impacts on Tribal Communities." Bangor Daily News, 3 Mar. 2025, www.bangordailynews.com/2025/03/03/opinion/opinion-contributor/trump-cuts-already-having-devastating-impacts-on-tribal-communities-joam40zk0w/?fbclid=IwY2xjaWlZUcxleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHTlwp6EtPIa7US0QUoY1DupUpab_ksxwWfFRJsZ123vXqr3r0Mkt_u1Siw_aem__mRdSZkN3HxemK98DxELuA. Accessed 4 Mar. 2025.

Work for Good. "We Cannot All Succeed When Half of Us Are Held Back." — Malala Yousafzai." Medium, 8 Mar. 2017, medium.com/@workfor_good/we-cannot-all-succeed-when-half-of-us-are-held-back-malala-yousafzai-4a890f3d8da6. Accessed 3 Mar. 2025.