

Robert Allen  
213 Long Point Way, Orland ME, 04472  
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable members of the Joint Standing  
Committee Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Robert Paul Allen and I am a resident of Orland, Maine. I am writing to you on behalf of my family and especially my wife and son. I am writing to support the passage of LD 260.

Both my wife and son stutter. This is now known to be an incurable, neurophysiological condition that, frankly and simply, just makes talking hard. Over 1% of the population stutters and decades of research have shown that people who stutter are no different than the rest of the population; indeed they have run for elected office and have become senators, representatives and also a president. Yet, despite these facts, stigma and discrimination exists and people who stutter are very often treated as if they are "inferior". I have seen this in my own family. LD 260 is important so that equal rights for all the protected classes, including people who stutter, will not be held hostage to laws that can change and/or be ignored but will instead be protected in Maine's constitution. I urge you to vote "ought to pass" for LD 260.

Thank you for your time,

Robert Paul Allen