



**Testimony of Maine Public Health Association in Support of:
LD 260: RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All
Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law**

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
State House, Room 438
Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Rebecca Boulos. I am a resident of South Portland, and executive director of Maine Public Health Association. MPHA is in support of LD 260: “RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law.”

MPHA is the state’s oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 850 individual members and 70 organizations across the state. The mission of MPHA is to advance the health of all people and places in Maine. As a statewide nonprofit association, we advocate, act, and advise on critical public health challenges. We are not tied to a national agenda, which means we are responsive to the needs of Maine’s communities, and we take that responsibility seriously.

LD 260 would allow Maine voters the opportunity to amend the Constitution of the State of Maine by explicitly prohibiting discrimination regardless of “actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental disability, ancestry or national origin of an individual.”

All people should have fair and just opportunities to reach their full health potential. Research has consistently shown that factors outside of our control drive the opportunities that are available to us and thus impact our health status and outcomes. Research has also shown that health disparities are expensive and reduce productivity. These barriers to health are systematic, predictable, avoidable, and unfair. Ensuring equal protection for all people is a legal step toward advancing health for all people in Maine.

We strongly support this opportunity to enshrine equal rights in our State Constitution. We respectfully request you vote LD 260 “Ought to Pass.” Thank you.