

Douglas Cowan
Brooksville
LD 260

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Brooksville, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony about LD 260.

My name is Douglas Cowan and I am a resident of Brooksville.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed inclusive Maine State Equal Rights Amendment. As a husband, father, grandfather, and resident of Maine, I believe ensuring legal gender equality is not only a moral imperative, but also a necessary step toward a more just and prosperous society.

The Maine ERA would help guarantee that women and men are treated equally under state law, reinforcing principles of fairness that our country was founded upon. Despite progress, disparities in pay, and lack of protection from sexual harassment in the workplace still exist. A clear constitutional guarantee of equality would provide a stronger foundation for addressing these issues and preventing discrimination in the future.

Furthermore, gender equality is not just a women's issue - it strengthens families, boosts economic growth, and enhances our state's competitiveness. When women have equal opportunities and protections, entire communities benefit through greater economic participation and security.

I urge you to support and vote for LD 260. By doing so, you will help enshrine the principle of equal treatment under the law and Maine Constitution and you will leave a legacy of fairness and justice for future generations.

Thank you
Douglas Cowan