

Susan Cranmer  
Brooksville  
LD 260

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March 1, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

Senator Rachel Talbot, Representative Holly Sargent and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Susan Cranmer I am a resident of Harborside, Maine. In 1981 I was one of the very first women indentured into the Carpenters Union apprenticeship program. I am also one of the first to retire with a wonderful union pension. I am writing this testimony on behalf of myself, only. I am writing to provide testimony in support of LD 260. "Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That all Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law".

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 Federal Rights Amendment Act prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded education programs.

Previously a single mother, with no healthcare, no pension, chasing low wage jobs this was a life changer for me. Being protected and provided equal rights by Title XI gave me the opportunity to learn an invaluable skill, support my family and become a contributing member of my community.

The 1981 goal was to accept 2% women apprentices raise to 6.9% the following year and continue. In 2006, twenty-five years later, when I retired, the 2% goal was finally reached. Today after years of hard work the national percentage is around 7%.

At this time, Maine can not be sure the Federal Government will protect all the citizens of Maine's equal rights. Maine can take steps that the people of Maine are all equally protected by the law.

I urge the committee to vote for LD260 to make sure all residing in Maine are provided these basic equal protections under the law.

Thank you for listening,

Susan Cranmer  
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