

Anna Durand
Bar Harbor
LD 260

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable Members of the Joint Judiciary Committee,

My name is Anna Durand, I have been a successful small business owner in Bar Harbor for 32 years. I am also the mother of four young adults, a community volunteer, and a ninth generation Quaker. I am urging you to support LD 260 as a way to embed Maine's commitment to equal rights in our Constitution.

LD 260 is both profound and simple: profound in its preservation of inalienable human rights; simple in its common sense.

Democracy depends on the voices of every citizen to be heard and counted. LD 260 would make sure that future generations of Mainers across the spectrum of race, sex, gender, sexuality, ability, background, and religion will be heard, counted, and allowed to participate in our economy and communities.

Maine has a strong tradition of a "Live and Let Live" ethos. Practically speaking, is there any reason why people should be discriminated against? Who you are, who you love, who you go to Church with, what daily activities you can or can't do - none of these are anyone's business but your own.

As our representatives you have a unique opportunity to codify this common sense approach to equal rights into our Constitution, as 26 other states have already done. I hope you will agree and pass LD260 with a resounding positive vote.

Thank you for this opportunity to give you my opinion.

Sincerely,
Anna Durand