

Julia Anne Hallward
Saco
LD 260

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Anne Hallward and I live in Saco. I work in Portland as a Psychiatrist where I treat many women who have suffered from rape or domestic violence, along with sexism, lack of opportunity, job discrimination, and gross disrespect related to sexism. I am reaching out to you now to say that sexism is bad for mental health. It causes people to suffer, to feel robbed of their potential, to doubt themselves, and to feel highly at risk. Please do everything you can to pass LD 260. If passed, this bill will protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all Maine Citizens. In particular, this bill will protect the rights of the women I serve. It will give them hope, validation, and a wonderful reason to celebrate. LD 260 would protect their ability and autonomy to make vital life decisions that affect both their physical and mental health. It will also give all of us even more reasons to love living in Maine! In these turbulent times, we are facing so many pressing challenges, passing LD 260 will protect Mainers from tyranny and make sure that basic human rights are protected.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260. Thank you!

Sincerely,
J. Anne Hallward