

Andrea Lavoie
Yarmouth
LD 260

Dear Senator Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Judiciary.

My name is Andrea Lavoie, and I live in Yarmouth. I am writing today to ask you to support LD260. I am a born and raised Mainer, elementary school teacher, and mother. When I think about the impact LD260 would have on our state, I think about the children and families I have worked with over the years. These families represent the diverse and beautiful population that makes up our great state: different races, religions, LGBTQ identities, ancestry, and physical and mental abilities. I care about all of my students and their futures, but the reality is that many of them are at a high risk of violence and discrimination based solely on their identity. As the political climate in our country shifts and takes aim at disparaging minority groups, I believe it is essential, now more than ever, for Maine to immortalize human rights as part of our state's constitution. Mainers take care of Mainers. We may not all look, think, or express ourselves the same way, but any true Mainer understands that being different does not warrant discrimination. Let us come together in the name of our children and set the record straight: Maine does not tolerate hate! Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD260. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.