

Michael McClellan  
Maine Right To Life  
LD 260  
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3/4/25

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Maine Judiciary Committee, my name is Mike McClellan. I am the Executive Director of Maine Right To Life, an organization that was established to honor the dignity and inherent value of every human life. I am here to testify against LD 260: Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law.

This legislation appears before the Maine Legislature every two years, it would seem. Given the threshold to succeed and the makeup of this Maine Legislature, it will fail again. In my life, women who are family members and friends have succeeded greatly. Leadership roles, salary and positions they worked hard for and did earn...because they could. During COVID, I was planning to testify online to this committee and arrived to find the Zoom call was still on a different bill. The committee was discussing the topic and they began calling out interest groups for special treatment. Representative Thorne was on that committee and offered "why not just say all people?" Just like in comedy movies I have seen, there was a slight quiet pause and then committee members again began calling out special treatment for special interest groups. I do not see that as how you support equal rights for all, choosing some.

In my own experience in the 125th Maine Legislature as a member of the Education Committee, we dealt with "bullying in schools." Great process and both sides worked together to create a bill that was supported by both major parties. In the end, I reminded the many students who attended the hearings that you do not change the world with laws. You change it by changing hearts. Imagine how sad I have been since in my many drives to Augusta when I periodically hear on the news about a bullying incident? .....But we passed a law?

To close, this bill when passed in other states has affirmed abortion rights. New Mexico is one example. We asked the bill sponsor some years ago when she said this was not about abortion rights to then insert a one sentence statement into the law telling all that this ERA Law does not in any way affirm abortion rights. The sponsor literally stood silent for a period of time and then walked away. We got our answer.

In a state where the legislature so often acts in ways that promote hopelessness, another nebulous bill will not make positive gains. I ask you to vote NO! On LD 260.