

Jean Sideris
Testimony for Judiciary Committee Hearing for LD260

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of LD 260, the Maine Equal Rights Amendment. This action would finally cement equal rights for ALL individuals in any protected class in Maine's foundational legal document. It will give the state of Maine new tools to address discrimination and violations of civil rights that have not yet been, or cannot fully be, addressed by state law. And it will ensure that even if state statutes or laws change, equal rights for all are still protected in Maine's constitution, joining the more than 29 states who have already secured such protections.

The rights of women and so many others are under attack right now, attempting to reverse the modest progress we have made toward gender equality. Maine must take action to enshrine protection in our legal foundation. What women have now is a patchwork of laws protecting them in some ways, and these laws can be changed at any time—that is just not acceptable! Everyone deserves equal protection under the law.

I urge you to vote for LD 260, an amendment to the Maine constitution. In the true spirit of "Dirigo," Maine can lead the way in equal rights for all.

Jean Sideris
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