

David Souers
Friendship
LD 260
March 4, 2025

Senator Anne Carney, Chair
Representative Amy Kuhn, Chair
Members of the Judiciary Committee

Re:LD 260 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

Good afternoon. My name is David Souers. I am a resident of Friendship. I am writing in favor LD 260. I am not sure why our Constitution of Maine doesn't already protect all residents in Maine with equal rights. Certainly it should.

In a world and nation that seems to be divided, swinging back towards bias, claiming discrimination when opportunities are given to those previously discriminated against, preferring exclusion by erasing words like inclusion, aversion to diversity which of course we are all diverse, and identity politics that appeal to one group against another, our Constitution should be clear that we all have equal rights and protections to live, work, play, travel, have access, be educated, fed, clothed, housed, provided healthcare, and live with, raised by and married to whomever we love and will care for us, and not to be abused, mistreated nor denied our dignity.

I am not a lawyer. I don't presume to know the words and language for these protections. There was a time during my life when politicians claimed that we don't need more laws, we just need to follow our existing laws. The problem may not be that we don't have the laws as much as we don't have the people who behave in accordance with the intent of the laws. People willing to be held accountable, and to treat all other people in accordance with the Golden Rule. Instead we have people who want to exclude and deny others but don't want to be excluded or denied, and they have the money, power, class, gender or race to protect their interests over those they abuse.

So I am in favor of an Amendment that makes it clear that there is only one law for all that protects everyone in Maine with "Equal Rights Under the Law". Thank you.