



# Grandmothers For Reproductive Rights

PO Box 204  
Portland, ME 04112

info@grrnow.org  
www.grrnow.org

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

My name is Cait Vaughan and I am here today to testify on behalf of my employer, Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!), and the more than 600 Maine residents we represent, in support of LD 260. We are a grassroots organization that amplifies the voices and status of grandmothers and elders who work intergenerationally, through grassroots education, advocacy, and community-centered initiatives to secure access to sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice for present and future generations.

Many of our activists have been organizing for decades around a federal equal rights amendment, and one for Maine's constitution. GRR!s are women who grew up in the days when getting fired for being pregnant was commonplace, a woman couldn't have a credit card of her own, and women needed a husband's approval in order to use birth control. These same women are now in their 70s and 80s and still working to advance political, economic, and cultural equality for women, and now gender nonconforming individuals, as well. GRR!s are tired, but our work seems only to have multiplied in the past 50 years, so here we are, once again making the case for equality under our state's founding document.

It is beyond time that Maine's constitution acknowledged the equality of all people who make our homes here. Laws passed by the legislature are too easy to appeal and overturn with changing leadership and the whims of the moment. We need every tool possible available to ensure that everyone's civil rights are upheld and discrimination is investigated and addressed whenever it happens. LD 260 provides those tools. Most importantly, a Maine Equal Rights Amendment signals to every person residing in this beautiful state that no one's life is less valuable, no one's dignity less honored, and no one's rights more protected than any of their neighbors. You have the chance to make Maine a more safe and equitable place for people to set down their roots and raise families, innovate, create, and recreate.

On behalf of Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 260.

Thank you,

*Caitlin Vaughan*

Cait Vaughan

Director of Programs & Outreach

Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!) works, through education and advocacy, to secure access to sexual & reproductive health, rights & justice for present & future generations.