

Eva White  
Orono  
LD 260

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March 3rd, 2025

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

My name is Eva White, and I am a graduate student of social work at the University of Maine. I am writing in strong support of LD 260.

The opportunity to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 260 is an opportunity to do the right thing. I am writing this testimony as an independent citizen and passionate Mainer, and I am also a recently-appointed member of the Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Something happened during my onboarding meeting that I feel compelled to share. I am the youngest commission member, and I serve in a seat reserved for a member under 25 years of age. During my onboarding an older Commission member poked fun at our age difference by saying “We’ve been fighting these same battles for as long as Eva’s been alive!” I’d like you to think about that for a second.

I am twenty-three years old, and have never lived in a world where my body is considered wholly my own. The woman who made that joke is thrice my age and she hasn’t either. She has been fighting tooth and nail, as I am now, to have equal rights enshrined in the Maine Constitution. To serve on an intergenerational commission is enlightening and an utter privilege, and illuminates the desperation shared by Mainers of all ages and backgrounds. It is nothing short of archaic that Maine offers no constitutional guarantee of protection for marginalized populations, over 200 years since its inception. Are we going to make it another 200?

I am excited for a future where I can sit old and gray and speak fondly of the 132nd Legislature, the one that stopped dragging their feet and spoke up for their state’s residents. The legislature that noticed that wasting time is doing nothing but killing people, who made it a priority to assure all people living in Maine that they are worth protecting. I implore you to do the right thing and vote Ought to Pass on LD 260. Thank you for your time.