

kimberly hallee
Waterville
LD 260

LD 260 the Maine Inclusive Equal Rights Amendment is a bill that I am asking Legislators pass to become law.

In the 1940's my Norridgewock maternal grandmother worked as a summer camp cook and baker. It is likely she did not receive the same wage as her male counterpart. If equality had existed, my mom would have worn her own ice skates and not been clad in her shoes worn inside her elder brother's skates! Raising three children on her deceased husband's social security during the fifties and 1960's was not sufficient. My mom took a job at the locally owned family pharmacy to try and "make ends meet." If all had been equal, her wages might have afforded repair of our rusty station wagon floorboards. We three kids could see the pavement as the car rolled down the street and back then seat belts were unheard of! I do hope my 43-year nursing career in Kennebec Valley provided solace for my patients. I would like to think my wages were equal to the few men I worked alongside, but we never compared our pay stubs. Equality is much more than equal pay for equal work regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or disability.

The new immigrants to Maine which we so desperately need must have equal rights and protection to address discrimination and violation of civil rights should they occur. All our Maine citizens deserve civil rights protection. Even if state statutes or laws change, an Amendment for Equal Rights for All in Maine would protect us-something more than twenty-nine states have already done.

Please vote "ought to pass" - Equal rights for all must be the rule of law. Thank you.
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