

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE STATE SENATE

State House Station 3

Augusta, Maine 04333

February 10, 1999

To the Members of the Legislative Council:

We are the sponsors of LR 204 and LR 2920 - Acts to Ensure Civil Rights and Prevent Discrimination - bills that will be the result of input by the sponsors of similar bills, as well as many and varied interests throughout the State of Maine. We are requesting that you permit us to hold these bills for possible presentation to the Judiciary Committee during the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. As precedent, we refer you to LR 2541 from the 118th Legislature. In the First Regular Session, this LR was pre-admitted for introduction into the Second Regular Session.

As you know, LR 402 and/or LR 2920 (in one incarnation or another) has been through the legislative process almost continually since 1977. Most recently it passed both houses and was signed by the Governor in 1997 . . . only to be overturned in a people's veto exactly one year ago today.

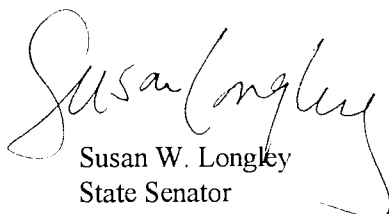
In an effort to see that this does not happen again, a lot of work and negotiation must take place and we believe that it will be done in a more thoughtful manner if done slowly with ample opportunity to involve all interested parties. Toward that end, we would rather not have an official Legislative Document (LD) in the public domain, an LD that sits as a document cast in concrete and as a target for potshots from all sides. We believe that if given the chance to talk unhurriedly with all parties something good may come of it.

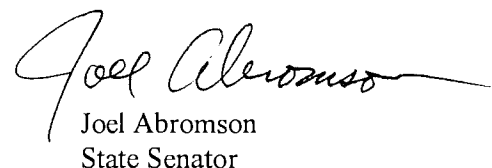
For example, many legislators (as well as the Governor) have indicated that they would like this bill to go out for referendum during the 2000 general election. On the other hand, some members of the gay community feel it is unfair to have their rights subject to a vote . . . a position with which we have some sympathy. And these are just examples. As you know, Christians of various denominations have different points of view on this bill.

Once again, we respectfully request that you permit us to hold LR 204 and LR 2920 for possible presentation to, and a vote by, the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary during the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. We are pleased to attach the concurrence of the remaining mandatory co-sponsors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Susan W. Longley
State Senator


Joel Abromson
State Senator



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

At the request of Senator Joel Abromson, I hereby withdraw my individual request to draft a bill to ensure civil rights and prevent discrimination. As a mandatory co-sponsor of Senator Abromson's LR 204, I also join in his request that the Legislative Council permit him to hold this bill for printing as a Legislative Document, and presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, until the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

Representative Michael Quint (Portland)

Date

Michael W. Quint
2/10/99



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Representative Daniel Williams (Orono)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel B. Williams".

Date

02/02/99



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Representative Robert Stanwood (Southwest Harbor) Robert E. Stanwood

Date 2-2-99



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Representative Michael V. Saxl (Portland)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael V. Saxl", written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature is a large, circular scribble or flourish.

Date

2/2/98