

Statement: Establishing Military and Veteran Status as a Protected Class

Cowdrey

I propose that states and the federal government recognize **military and veteran status as a protected class under civil-rights law**. Veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard members, Reservists, and individuals with current or future military service obligations should be protected from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation because of their military affiliation or service.

This protection should apply across employment, housing, public accommodations, education, government services, and other areas covered by civil-rights law. Many states already recognize important protections for military service members and veterans; this proposal would establish a stronger, clearly defined civil-rights protection for those who have served and those who continue to serve.

Military service is a significant public commitment, and people should be able to participate in civilian life without being subjected to discrimination because of their important service.

“Would you be willing to review this proposal and consider sponsoring legislation to establish military and veteran status as a protected class under Maine civil-rights law?”

CONTACTS FOR PROPOSED MILITARY AND VETERAN PROTECTED-CLASS LEGISLATION

Maine State Legislature

Maine House of Representatives

Office of the Clerk

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Phone: 207-287-1400

Toll-Free: 1-800-423-2900

Maine State Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0003

Toll-Free: 1-800-423-6900

Maine Legislature — Contact Your Legislator

Use the Maine Legislature’s official contact system to identify and contact your State Representative and State Senator based on your address.

Maine Human Rights Commission (MHRC)

51 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-6290

Email: info@mhrc.maine.gov

The Maine Human Rights Commission is particularly relevant because its Legal Division provides legal advice and drafts legislation and proposed regulations concerning civil-rights matters.

Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS)

Central Office

117 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0117

Phone: 207-287-7020

Email: mainebvs@maine.gov

Director: David A. Richmond

Phone: 207-287-7020

Email: mainebvs@maine.gov

York County / Springvale Veterans' Services Office

634 Main Street

Springvale, ME 04083

Phone: 207-324-1839

Email: mainebvs@maine.gov

Federal Representatives

United States House of Representatives

Contact your U.S. Representative through the official House constituent-services system.

United States Senate

Contact both U.S. Senators representing Maine through their official Senate offices.

Suggested Request

I am requesting that this proposal be reviewed for possible legislation establishing **military and veteran status as a protected class under civil-rights law**. I would appreciate consideration of legislation protecting veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard members, Reservists, and individuals with current or future military service obligations from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation because of their military affiliation or service.