

Sydney Lounsbury
Orono
LD 260

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Sydney Lounsbury, and I am a BSW student in full support of passing the bill LD-260. Despite transgender individuals making up less than 1% of the United States population, our current government system is doing everything possible to make them disappear completely. Our country was built on being the land of the free, but recently it seems that freedom is a foreign concept. Rather than encouraging each other to live our lives as we choose, our government rejects that sentiment through discriminatory executive orders that are being introduced. Maine prides itself on being an inclusive state, so it should be a no-brainer to vote "ought to pass" on the upcoming bill, LD-260. This bill would ensure that all people in our state, regardless of their sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender expression, would be protected from discrimination in any form. Our transgender neighbors and friends need our support more than ever, as the government is doing everything it can to remove them from our society. The fear-mongering lies that have taken place in recent years have disgusted me to my core. Transgender individuals aren't transitioning to assault women in locker rooms or become rapists in female prisons. They simply want to match their internal and external identities. LD-260 would ensure that they have this option without fear of discrimination. Those against this bill state that the transgender "issue" is also a women's "issue." I identify as a woman, and I have no problem with transgender individuals identifying as they choose, and I encourage them to live their lives boldly. It is beyond infuriating that politicians are telling us how to feel about a certain group of people when I have been met with only kindness from my fellow transgender Mainers. We must uplift transgender voices and show our support for them by also supporting the LD 260 bill. This will ensure that our state continues to be a refuge for the LGBTQIA+ community and show that love is stronger than hate. Kamala Harris said, "Our unity is our strength and diversity is our power." Let's use that power to pass bill LD 260.