

august sender
montville
LD 1432

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony against multiple anti-trans bills. As an older transgender Mainer, who was never safe to come out a child, I do not want more trans youth to live in fear and with fewer opportunities than I received.

As you likely know, according to the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, transgender youth have the highest suicide rates of any demographic. Over the past multiple surveys, over 50% of transgender high school students in Maine have seriously considered suicide. Over 25% attempted suicide. The many trans adults I know have all considered suicide or lost someone to suicide.

It is incredibly difficult to be transgender. We face isolation, exclusion, hate crimes, discrimination, threats of violence, hatred, disgust, and mistrust everywhere we go - simply because of the long history of fear and ignorance many people have about transgender people.

As a transgender person, I fear discrimination and hate crimes every day. I have been lucky to find workplaces and living situations that have been supportive of who I am, but know many many people who have not. Without the backing of the MHRA, those situations would have been much more dangerous and potentially lethal.

Excluding a class of people who face steep historical and current discrimination from the MHRA will result in a massive and deadly increase of harassment, abuse of transgender Mainers of all ages.

Please vote "No" on this bill.