

Jorden Henriquez
Scarborough
LD 1432

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jorden Henriquez and I'm writing in opposition of the bills proposed to take away the rights of houseless trans people, trans children, trans athletes, and and black trans people in Maine. Maine has to stand up for trans peoples during the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 are discriminatory on the basis of sex and are not constitutional. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination and does not require a prohibition on transgender or intersex athletes. The Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005. Passing these bills before the committee would only reward the federal government's current bullying tactics and open the door for further attacks on Mainers' civil rights, and won't make Maine more safe or fair for anyone. Maine state law has already allowed doctors and patients to safely give and receive the care they need, and LD 380 would especially cause great harm to health care providers. Trans women in Maine already face serious barriers to accessing appropriate shelter—not to mention disproportionate risks of violence—when they are unhoused. Shelters know how to keep all women safe and have been doing it for years.

Im a trans person of color who is most likely to become part of prison systems, the unhoused population, neglected and discriminated in school because of other failures in our government and legislation and the opinion in society it influences. I'm transmasculine which means I was assigned female at birth. I seek medical services and advice often to aide me in my transition which saves my life. The thought of facing discrimination in all the spaces I occupy bc my inclusion has been erased in the human rights act, medical providers have to discriminate against me, and my gender being allowed to be under scrutiny from the public would make me kill myself. These bills also are directly harmful to all women who do not fit the stereotypical idea you perceive as feminine.