

Holly Williams  
Levant  
LD 1432

I, Holly Williams, a resident of Levant, and writing this testimony AGAINST LD1432, an Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act. I am a 5th generation Mainer, and the mother of a son who is queer.

When I watched the news on the morning of April 2nd, I saw the report that the GOP wants gender identity to be removed from the Maine Human Rights Act. I then wrote the following letter to both my local Senator, Stacey Guerin, and my local representative, Abigail Griffin. Although I asked for a response, I have not heard one word from them.

Removing gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act would remove protections for people of the trans community--they would no longer be protected from discrimination in their employment, housing and their education. I know you know this already, but you must also know that you have people in your district (and in your state) that identify as a different gender than what their birth certificate says.

Due to the actions of the current federal Administration, some of their rights have already been taken away. (My friend, who is trans, did not get her passport yet. Now she is not able to.) Our American history is being rewritten--just ask those that were at Stonewall. But now, in this state, what your party is proposing is to take even more away from a group of our friends, family, neighbors--your constituents.

Please do not align with this type of thinking. Please think about all of the people in your community. And please don't tell me that you think this will solve the problems of Trump bearing down on our state. If you've never been bullied before, maybe you don't recognize a bully. If you've never suffered domestic abuse or misogyny, maybe you don't recognize that either. But I have faced all of these things, and I can tell you, that the bully in the White House will keep pushing until he gets everything he wants. And I don't want him and you to take away rights from my family and friends because you think this issue is about transgender athletes. It's most definitely not. It's about exclusion. Period.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on this bill. Thank you.