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My name is Jen Boggs, and I am a mother, small business owner, Girl Scout leader, and faithful Lutheran. The leaders and members of my church believe that we must advocate against gender affirming healthcare bans, transgender athlete bans, curriculum and book bans, bathroom bans, bills disguised as parental rights efforts that jeopardize the health, safety, and humanity of LGBTQ+ young people.

In other words, we believe that we must be FOR the ways social structures and institutions shelter, sustain, and protect personal, family, and social relationships of love and trustworthiness. The legislation being voted on today does not reflect that protection.

As a Christian and as a parent, these bills will hurt Maine schools and communities. Our students, our kids. Please do not change Maine laws – it would be unnecessary and damaging – and it won't make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.

The Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005, and attempting to strip Maine's federal funding for protecting trans people is an incredible federal overreach. It is inaccurate about the law and Maine has acted according to the law.

Passing these bills would reward the federal government's bullying and open the door for additional attacks on our civil rights. As a Mainer, I am pushing back and hope you will decide to do the same. Let's continue to be an example to other states with our reason and compassion.