

April 29, 2025

RE: LD1432 – An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

My name is Douglass Moore, and I live in Sabattus. I am testifying in opposition to LD1432.

LD 1432: “An Act to Ensure Discrimination is More Convenient for the Easily Uncomfortable”

(Or: “The If We Don’t Say ‘Gender Identity’ Out Loud, Maybe Trans People Will Just Go Away Act”)

I strongly oppose LD 1432, a bill that—let’s be honest—basically says, *“What if we just stop pretending trans people deserve rights?”* This bill proposes to remove “gender identity” from the Maine Human Rights Act. Because nothing says *progress* quite like hitting reverse on civil rights, slamming it into a telephone pole, and blaming the airbags for deploying.

Let’s pause for a moment to acknowledge just how far we haven’t come. In a country that spent decades trying to *expand* civil rights, we’re now holding hearings on how to contract them. LD 1432 tries to solve the very serious non-problem of people having basic dignity by stripping legal protections from transgender and nonbinary Mainers—people who already face discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and education. In other words, this bill kicks people while they’re already down, then yells “It’s about fairness!” while walking away.

Let’s get into specifics. If this bill passes:

- A trans woman could walk into a job interview with stellar qualifications, years of experience, and a glowing resume—but get rejected the moment someone decides she “doesn’t look right.”
- A trans teen could get barred from the sports team they’ve trained for, simply because their gender identity doesn’t align with someone else’s discomfort.
- A trans person searching for housing could be turned away on sight, because a landlord “just has a feeling.”

And none of these people would be protected. This bill tells trans Mainers, “*It doesn’t matter how hard you work, how respectful you are, or how much you contribute to your community—your identity makes you fair game.*”

Which is fascinating, because it flies directly in the face of the conservative mythology of meritocracy. You know the one: “Work hard and you’ll succeed,” “We don’t care about identity, we care about effort.” But this bill exposes that for the fiction it is. Because if merit truly mattered, a trans woman’s resume would count more than her pronouns. If fairness was the goal, then a trans athlete would be evaluated based on talent—not genitalia.

Instead, LD 1432 legalizes a world where effort, qualification, and character are all meaningless the moment someone *looks* different. It’s not a meritocracy. It’s selective gatekeeping, plain and simple.

Let’s also be clear: the bill doesn’t even pretend to offer alternative protections for trans or nonbinary people. It doesn’t say, “We’ll protect you *differently*.” It says, “We won’t protect you at all.” This isn’t about finding balance. It’s about removing vulnerable people from the circle of basic human rights and hoping no one notices.

And the consequences aren’t hypothetical. According to peer-reviewed research going back to at least 1952, trans people have been systematically excluded from legal protections in the U.S. unless they’re explicitly named. We know what happens when they aren’t: higher rates of homelessness, joblessness, violence, and suicide. This bill doesn’t just ignore that reality—it invites it.

It also exposes people to very real dangers. For example, if a trans woman is denied access to a women’s shelter and forced into a men’s shelter, she’s at significantly higher risk of harassment or assault. This bill would literally force her into that situation by removing the protections that could keep her safe. That’s not just discriminatory—it’s life-threatening.

Meanwhile, the talking point about “protecting women’s sports” is the legislative version of waving your arms and yelling “Look over there!” to distract from real issues. If we cared about women’s sports, we’d fund them better, promote equity in coaching and facilities, and address systemic sexism. But instead, we’re fixated on the tiny number of trans girls in school athletics, acting like they’re the final boss in the video game of “Protecting Women,” when they’re just kids who want to play sports.

This bill doesn’t level any playing fields—it razes the entire stadium. It doesn’t protect women; it scapegoats trans girls. And while we’re at it, let’s stop pretending this is about safety. If you’re worried about women’s safety, I hate to

break it to you, but straight men are the greatest risk by a wide, screaming margin. Trans people? They're just trying to use the bathroom or survive a Tuesday.

So, what is LD 1432 really about? It's about legalizing cruelty. It's about creating a world where discrimination is no longer a dirty secret, but a protected right. Where landlords, employers, and business owners can look at someone and say, "I don't like the way you look—get out," and the law nods approvingly.

That's not freedom. That's fascism with better branding.

In conclusion, LD 1432 doesn't represent fairness, safety, or the will of the people. It represents fear, ignorance, and cowardice. It sends a message to transgender Mainers that they are unwelcome, unprotected, and unsafe.

And if you're okay with that, then don't call it liberty. Don't call it values. Just be honest: call it bigotry, legalized and gift-wrapped in a bill.

I urge you—no, I beg you—to vote NO on LD 1432. Because history doesn't look kindly on those who strip away civil rights, and frankly, neither will your grandkids.