

Valentina Dereani
Bar Harbor, Maine
May 8, 2025

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

I stand before you today as a deeply concerned citizen of Maine, opposed to LD 1432. While I am not a transgender individual, I am a member of this community, and I believe this bill represents a grave threat to the well-being, safety, and dignity of my transgender friends, neighbors, and fellow Mainers. This proposed legislation, in my view, is rooted in misinformation and prejudice, and it seeks to codify discrimination into law. It disregards the established medical consensus regarding gender identity and the necessity of gender-affirming care. It ignores the lived experiences of transgender individuals, who simply seek to live authentic and fulfilling lives.

The impact of this bill, should it become law, would be devastating. It would:

- **Endanger the health and safety of transgender youth:** By denying access to essential medical care, this bill would increase the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide among transgender youth, who already face disproportionate rates of mental health challenges. Medical professionals and major medical associations oppose measures that deny access to established medical care.¹
- **Undermine the rights and dignity of transgender adults:** This bill seeks to restrict the ability of transgender adults to access necessary healthcare and to live their lives free from discrimination. It infringes upon their fundamental human rights and their right to self-determination.
- **Harm Maine's reputation as a welcoming and inclusive state:** Maine has always prided itself on its commitment to equality and justice. This bill would tarnish that reputation and send a message that transgender people are not welcome here.
- **Create unnecessary legal burdens:** this bill creates a legal landscape ripe for lawsuits, and creates unnecessary legal burdens for medical professionals, and schools.

My transgender friends are not abstract political concepts. They are real people, with real families, real dreams, and real contributions to our community. They deserve the same rights and protections as any other Mainer.

I urge you to consider the profound and lasting harm that this bill would inflict. I implore you to reject this discriminatory legislation and to uphold the values of equality, justice, and compassion that make Maine a place we are all proud to call home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ Medical Association Statements in Support of Health Care for Transgender People and Youth | GLAAD

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