

Aiden Campbell

Biddeford, ME

May 8, 2025

Testimony Opposing LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Aiden Campbell. I'm a licensed therapist and a transgender Mainer, and I am here to strongly oppose all of the anti-trans bills before you: LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380.

These bills do not promote safety, fairness, or dignity. Instead, they attempt to legislate trans people—people like me—out of public life. As both a therapist and a trans person, I have seen firsthand the profound harm these kinds of policies cause. They fuel shame, fear, and isolation. They endanger mental health. And they send a clear, devastating message to trans Mainers: that we don't belong.

Whether we're talking about banning students from sports, denying access to restrooms, refusing to use someone's correct name and pronouns, or restricting healthcare—these bills strip away basic rights. They make it harder for trans people to go to school, seek shelter, or receive medical care.

Every major U.S. medical association—including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychiatric Association—supports access to gender-affirming care as evidence-based and medically necessary. These bills are not just unnecessary; they are dangerous.

Trans youth are already more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender peers. When I was young, I was depressed and suicidal—unable to understand why I felt so wrong in my body. When I came out as transgender, there were few resources and almost no support. I became a therapist because I knew I could help change that.

I've worked with transgender and non-binary clients across the lifespan—young people already carrying the weight of rejection and misunderstanding, and adults still healing from the trauma of growing up in a world that denied who they were. These bills don't just hurt kids, they threaten families, futures, and the very fabric of community in Maine.

They tell kids like I once was that they are wrong for simply existing. They tell adults in my community that who we are makes us unworthy of safety, dignity, or belonging. I've sat with clients in deep pain because of messages like these. I've carried that pain myself. This isn't about politics; it's about people. Real people. These bills make life harder, lonelier, and more dangerous for trans Mainers. We are not threats; we are your neighbors, your students, your family. We deserve to have our names and pronouns respected, to use the bathroom safely, to access healthcare, to play sports, and to exist without fear.

I urge you to reject each of these bills and to stand firmly on the side of compassion, safety, and equality for all Mainers.

Thank you.