

Jeanne C. McNutt
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Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to ALL the discriminatory, anti-trans bills currently presented to your Committee for review.

Quite simply, this is a human and civil rights issue, one that is, I'm proud to recognize as a relative newcomer to the state, already appropriately and compassionately enshrined in Maine law, specifically The Maine Human Rights Act of 2005. Any changes in the law leaves trans youth and adults extremely vulnerable to hateful discrimination, physical and verbal abuse and psychological suffering. Can there be anything more demeaning to a child or adult, for instance, than a traumatizing, physical 'gender check' in order to play sports? The right to privacy is a human right we all deserve. As reasonable adults, we should all know this.

I am not a transgender person, but a neighbor to a loving family who have raised and supported a beautiful 22-year-old trans son through his challenging gender-identity change. I know of the isolation, fear and rejection that their child endured—and continues to endure—to become his authentic self. Even *with* legal protections, life is hard for trans teens and adults...affecting the entire family in untold ways. That said, gender identity, according to Maine anti-discrimination law, is its own protected class, such as sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, color or religion and it must remain so, no matter today's harsh political agenda.

I am also the closest friend to a 63-year-old man who knew, at age five that he was a girl, identifying as one with his whole being. Two years ago, he summoned the courage to explore and pursue hormone treatment to become the woman he knows he was meant to be. One doesn't undertake such a late, life altering transition—inviting potential ridicule, shame and bias—lightly. Still transitioning, and not 'out' to his family, friends, or the world, he is petrified of losing those who now love him as a man, and of societal oppression through unnecessarily inhumane and cruel political decisions that invalidate his identity.

To summarize, I am opposed to the entire set of proposed anti-trans bills presented today. Maine has it right. Continue to be out in front and a model for other states to follow!

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Jeanne C. McNutt
Arrowsic, Maine