

LD1432

Hello Committee,

Thank you again for your time digesting all of this today. Regardless of your stance on everything, this is a lot to take in.

Once again, I am Marissa Bickford, Concerned Citizen of Westbrook, ME and local gender nonconformist. I'm about to give you a little lesson is Sex vs. Gender because it is clear to me that your school systems have failed you if you are debating this bill (ps. I am in opposition if you don't know me by now).

We can't remove "Gender Identity" from the Maine Human Rights Act because it is fundamentally different from "Sex" and "Sexual Orientation" and thus need different protections. I have attached an info graphic to help with the definitions.

#### THE BASICS:

SEX - are biological characteristics such as genitals, body shape, body hair, hormones, voice pitch, chromosomes. (these can even change over time). Think Male/Female/ Intersex/FTM/MTF

GENDER - Is your demeanor, roll in society, actions, dress. Sometimes your presentation and identity or how you feel or define yourself do not align. Think Femininity/Masculinity/Neutrality

ORIENTATION - Is attraction, sexual or romantic, who do you love and how do they express or show up in society.

The reason this is important to differentiate and have protections for individually is because people discriminate differently based on each different category.

For example, I am an assigned female at birth, non-binary person who takes testosterone, and I am bisexual. I have dated both men and women. I have been discriminated in the workplace as a woman being paid less than my male counterparts and need protection against this. I have been heckled for holding my girlfriends hand in public and fear being refused service in certain places going on dates. I would like to live in a state/world that protected against this and fostered a culture better than this. And as a trans person I want protection in recovery spaces and medical environments for my treatments and healing without fear of violence, retaliation, or reduction in my overall quality of life.

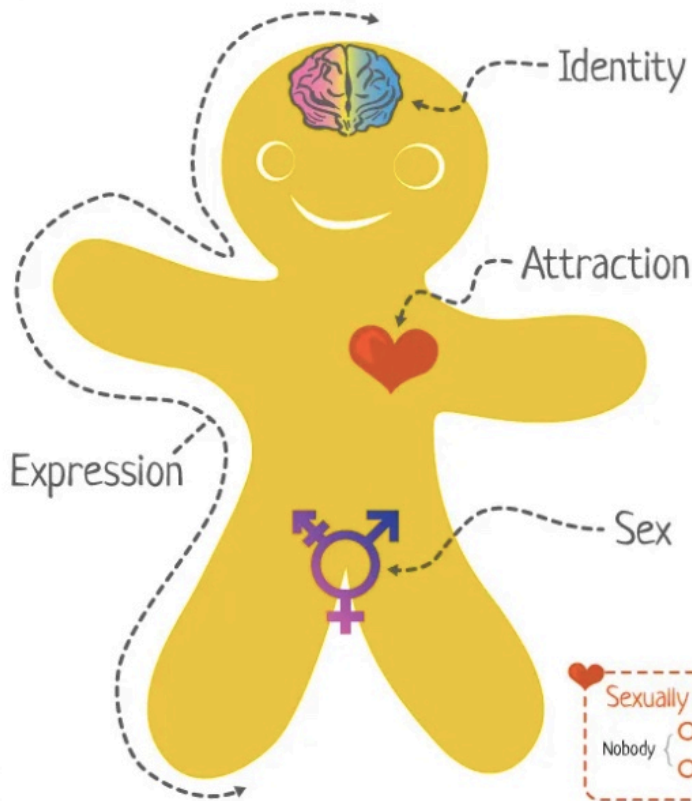
Different identities need different care. We do not need to be editing right now. And folks who are not members of these communities do not need to be coming in and making these edits for us. Let us have the protections we fought for.

Don't forget to drink some water,  
Riss

# The Genderbread Person v3.3

by it's pronounced **METROsexual**.com

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like *Inception*. Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and. A bit of this, a dash of that. This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetizer for gender understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more. In fact, that's the idea.



Plot a point on both continua in each category to represent your identity. combine all ingredients to form your Genderbread

4 (of infinite) possible plot and label combos

**Gender Identity**

⊘ Indicates a lack of what's on the right:

Woman-ness

Man-ness

How you, in your head, define your gender, based on how much you align (or don't align) with what you understand to be the options for gender.

Labels: "woman", "man", "two-spirit", "genderqueer"

**Gender Expression**

Feminine

Masculine

The ways you present gender, through your actions, dress, and demeanor; and how those presentations are interpreted based on gender norms.

Labels: "butch", "femme", "androgynous", "gender neutral"

**Biological Sex**

Female-ness

Male-ness

The physical sex characteristics you're born with and develop, including genitalia, body shape, voice pitch, body hair, hormones, chromosomes, etc.

Labels: "male", "female", "inter sex", "MTF Female"

**Sexually Attracted to**

Nobody {

(Women/Females/Femininity)

(Men/Males/Masculinity)

**Romantically Attracted to**

Nobody {

(Women/Females/Femininity)

(Men/Males/Masculinity)

In each grouping, circle all that apply to you and plot a point, depicting the aspects of gender toward which you experience attraction.

A

For a bigger bite, read more at <http://bit.ly/genderbread>