

Rev. Dr. Ralph M. Moore, Jr., Rockland, Maine, May 8, 2025

RE: LD 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, and LD 1337, 1432, 380

My position is against this proposed legislation

My primary objection to these bills is their use of language based on fear and ignorance. Fear: that there is a class of persons in our families and communities that threaten us. Ignorance: that these persons are not full wholesome human beings.

I have served as an Episcopal priest in parishes and interfaith ministries for sixty years. I retired in 2007 from fulltime service after eleven years with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rockland. Since then I have served as ethics teacher at the independent secondary Watershed School and on the board of OUT Maine. My wife has served as a Certified Nurse-Midwife in the MaineHealth system. In our own families we live with children and siblings who are gay, lesbian, and transgender, now adults studying and working. Their gender identity is not principally physical. It has emerged as their fully experienced selves have developed—not by rational choice but as their intellectual, emotional, and spiritual identities have formed. In our day now we as societies are coming to fuller awareness of these realities. They seem to be new, but science and history teach us that this is not new over the millenias humans have existed. It is destructive for us to label them and exclude them. (How long has it taken us to recognize the right to vote of women?)

My faith in the biblical love ethic and its priority of justice is basic to my resolve to support them fully as we all face together the physical challenges as well as the harm that many of them suffer. Our governor has urged us to engage in common dialogue that honors this subject as worthy of our attention. In our schools, families, and communities this requires our loving commitment to avoiding further harm and embracing new ways of support. This legislation fails to contribute to such goals.

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LD 233

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