

Camille Reppert
Portland, ME
May 8, 2025

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

My name is **Camille Reppert**, and I am writing in **strong opposition** to **LD 1432, *An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act***. As a soon-to-be LGBTQ+ physician (on May 17th), I have seen firsthand how deeply anti-trans rhetoric and exclusionary policies harm the mental, physical, and emotional health of my patients, colleagues, and community members. This bill would not only roll back essential civil rights protections—it would endanger lives.

LD 1432 proposes a deeply regressive action: to eliminate protections based on gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act. Let me be clear—removing these protections would strip transgender Mainers of the legal ability to live with safety, dignity, and equality in critical areas such as housing, employment, healthcare, education, and access to public accommodations. As a medical professional who has cared for LGBTQ+ individuals, I know how urgently these legal protections are needed—and how devastating their absence can be.

Medical and Public Health Harms

The data is undeniable: transgender people face disproportionate rates of discrimination, homelessness, unemployment, and violence. This is not abstract—it is real and measurable. Transgender youth are significantly more likely to experience suicidal ideation, and those who lack affirming environments are at the highest risk. When the state signals that their identities are not worthy of legal recognition, that risk increases.

As a physician, I cannot ignore the impact this bill would have on my patients. Healthcare access becomes more difficult when patients fear being fired, evicted, or harassed simply for being who they are. Housing becomes unsafe. Jobs become inaccessible. These social determinants of health are as critical to well-being as any prescription or surgical intervention. Stripping away gender identity protections undermines every effort I and others make in affirming, inclusive care.

Legal Protections Are Not Special Rights—They Are Basic Rights

Some will argue that removing gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act levels the playing field. In fact, it does the opposite. It selectively removes one group—transgender people—from the protections afforded to all others. These are not "special rights"; they are basic, fundamental rights: to live, work, learn, and exist without fear of discrimination.

LD 1432 would make it legal to deny someone a job, evict them from housing, refuse them service, or exclude them from educational opportunities simply because they are transgender. That is not neutrality—it is active discrimination, and it would move Maine backward.

Maine Has Been a Leader in Equality

For nearly two decades, Maine has recognized that protections for LGBTQ+ individuals—including those based on gender identity—are essential to ensuring equal treatment for all residents. This bill would unravel that progress. At a time when transgender people are under attack across the country, we should be strengthening protections, not removing them. I chose to train and hopefully eventually practice medicine in Maine because I believed in its values of fairness and inclusion. Passing LD 1432 would betray those values.

Conclusion

I urge you—do not support this bill. LD 1432 is not about technical definitions or minor adjustments. It is a direct assault on the civil rights and humanity of transgender Mainers. It will make people less safe. It will harm public health. And it will send a dangerous message to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. As a future physician and proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, I implore you to reject this cruel and unnecessary legislation. Stand with transgender Mainers. Stand for dignity, equality, and health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Camille Reppert