

Derek Pierce  
Portland  
LD 1432

Dear Maine State Legislature,

I write to urge the Legislature to reject LD 1432 and to continue to include "gender identity" in the Maine Human Rights Act. All of the arguments that led to the inclusion of "gender identity" when the act was originally written and passed are even more true today. The rampant transphobia that is emanating from the Trump administration has made one of our most vulnerable populations - transgender folks - even more vulnerable. Transgender youth remain more likely to experience bias and harassment and more likely to consider and commit suicide than the general population. As a Maine educator for 30+ years, I have worked with a great number of transgender youth, and every single one was a boon to our school community, and worthy of the same respect and support as their peers. Like all of us, transgender folks deserve to live their life free of discrimination. Their inclusion in the Maine Human Rights Act is a necessary protection. Please do all that is necessary to preserve it.