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LD 1432

I'm writing to ask that you reject LD 1432: An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act. The Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005--twenty years ago. Only with the recent rise of a national moral panic around transgender students participating in sports has this become an issue in Maine. While removing references to "gender identity" as a protected class in the Maine Human Rights Act would have limited, if any, effect, since discrimination against queer and trans people is technically discrimination on the basis of sex and/or sexual orientation, passage of this bill would nevertheless send a message to our transgender youth that Maine is willing to use them to score a point in a game of political football, and show them that their lives are less valuable to the lawmakers in Augusta than other classes of people.

It should be the project of society and, by extension, government, to expand human rights and civil rights, to continually work toward the American ideals of "all created equally" and "liberty and justice for all." Rolling back the rights of individuals or specific identity groups is a hallmark of fascist and authoritarian regimes, which is absolutely NOT the stance Maine should be taking at this time in history.

Thank you for rejecting this vile bill.