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LD 1432

I am a nursing student here in Maine. I'm writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1432.

As someone who is training to enter the healthcare field, I've been taught that every patient deserves dignity, respect, and equitable care—regardless of who they are. Removing gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act would undermine those principles. It would send a dangerous message that transgender and gender-diverse people are not protected under the law, and it would make it harder for them to access the basic rights and services everyone deserves.

In healthcare, we know that LGBTQ+ individuals—especially transgender people—already face significant barriers. They are more likely to delay care because of fear of discrimination. They experience higher rates of depression and suicide. And many report being mistreated or denied care entirely.

The Human Rights Act is a shield—it says clearly that here in Maine, no one should be denied housing, healthcare, education, or employment because of who they are. LD 1432 would take that shield away from an already marginalized population, and as a future nurse, I find that heartbreaking and professionally unacceptable.

This bill is not about fairness. It is about erasure. It is about saying that gender identity no longer matters in how we protect people from discrimination—and that's not only morally wrong, it's dangerous for public health.

I entered nursing because I believe in caring for the whole person. That includes respecting who they are—not just their symptoms, but their identity, their story, their humanity. Transgender Mainers deserve that same respect. They deserve legal protection. And they deserve to know that their state sees them, values them, and stands up for them.

Please reject LD 1432. Protect the Human Rights Act. Protect all Mainers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.