

Penelope Elwell  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
LD 868

I am writing to oppose LD 868, yet addressing at the same time my opposition to the related bills being heard today.

My name is Penelope Elwell. I am the daughter of a minister and have been a part of the Unitarian Universalist Faith for 84 years. For 30 years I worked as an educator with elementary and middle school children. My core belief has always been, One World, One People. We all share a heritage. Each of us is unique, and yet together we are the human family on this Earth. And as a family, we must work for the greater good of all, at the same time time respecting the dignity and differences of each human being. As an educator, it was a privilege and an obligation to understand each and every child, and help them navigate their world and their growth, and at the same time help them build-and be part of- a community.

Our State of Maine should do no less for every member of our community. It is that simple; respect the rights and dignity of every person, and help them flourish. Any differences become part of the whole, part of the tapestry of our humanity.

What is abundantly clear is that how we identify, we are. No law, no action, must be allowed to denigrate or deny that identity.