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My name is Susan Garrett. I live in Yarmouth, Maine. I am a member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Yarmouth. I understand that there are eight different anti-trans bills that will be heard by the Judiciary Committee on Thursday. I want you to know that I am strongly opposed to all eight of the bills. These bills are rooted in ignorance and narrow-minded thinking. They condemn and attack our trans-neighbors.

As part of the Episcopal Church, I believe that all people are created in the image of God, fearfully and wonderfully made. We honor the beauty of gender diversity and the journey of becoming who God calls each of us to be. All humans, and in particular, our students, deserve the opportunity to grow and become the authentic people they were born to be. Everyone, including our trans-neighbors and students, deserve to be treated with genuine dignity and respect. All students deserve the opportunity to participate fully in our public education settings.

I have lived in Maine for over 5 years now. Our country, even my own extended family, is so divided right now. I feel so fortunate and proud to live in a state where our law expects everyone to be treated with genuine dignity and respect. The anger and hate I feel from other places is devastating. Please be sure that Maine's laws continue to honor each of us for the unique individuals we are.