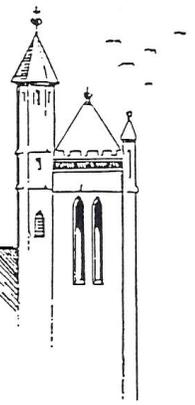


May 6, 2025

STATE STREET CHURCH
United Church of Christ
Rev. Bryan S. Breault, Pastor



To Members of the Maine Legislature

From: Rev. Bryan S Breault, Pastor
State Street Church, United Church of Christ
P.O Box 4037
Portland, ME 04101
(Resident of Portland, Maine)

Re: LD 233, LD 868, LD 1134, LD 1704,

As the duly ordained and installed minister of State Street Church, United Church of Christ in, Portland, I write to express my deep concern for the current wave of transphobia manifesting itself this week and a barrage of bills aimed at discriminating against members of the transgender community. Both the United Church of Christ as a denomination, and our local State Street Church stand as "Open and Affirming" of the LGBTQ+ community.

Affirming the identity of an individual is a moral essential. Sporting events are not. And the obsession with bathroom usage is childish. Focusing on sporting events is clearly a first step to removing the rights of people who have been reviled, abused, and discriminated against. Only in recent years has the transgender community been able to find its public voice. This discrimination will not stop with games and bathrooms. People are different in so many ways. Should a very tall girl not be allowed to play basketball because her body gives her an unfair advantage against those of smaller stature? No, of course not.

Bathrooms have individual stalls. Surely there is a mature way to allow privacy for those who desire it in locker-room as well. The fact that these simple solutions are not discussed unmarks the true aspiration to take aim at vulnerable group of people and using persecution as a uniting factor against those deemed different and therefore unacceptable.

Our church follows the teachings of a leader who consistently talked and ate with those whom society considered unacceptable because of their divergence from social norms. We are to love everyone regardless of their origin, their social status, their financial status, or differing views.

I strongly encourage voting against these assaults on transgender people, whose journey to their identity requires courage and support in the best of circumstances. If these bills become law, you are protecting nobody, reinforcing privilege, and making lives that are already difficult even more so. These bills eschew compassion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan S. Breault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Bryan S. Breault