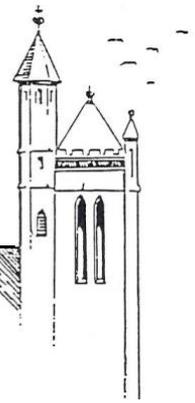


May 6, 2025

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 1337

The church that I represent operates an Emergency Winter Shelter in the basement of our church. 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 a 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.

LD 1337 would do nothing but put up roadblocks to people seeking shelter. Being transgender in this culture is already a difficult path. Imagine also being without shelter and being turned away because of who you are. This is unthinkable.

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,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Bryan S. Breault.

Rev. Bryan S. Breault