

Maxwell Lisanti
Scarborough
LD 1337

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Scarborough, Maine

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.

My name is Maxwell Lisanti, I am a resident of Scarborough. I am here in opposition to the bill before the committee today. Transgender people are more likely to experience unsheltered homelessness than their cisgender peers, and are uniquely vulnerable while homeless. I fear for the transgender women experiencing homelessness who will be kept out of single sex women's shelters because of laws like LD 1337. When their only option is to be subject to harassment and misgendering in a men's shelter, it is likely these women will choose to remain unsheltered. In 2024, 50 homeless people died in Portland, many of whom were experiencing unsheltered homelessness. All of these deaths were preventable, and you can prevent more deaths if you vote ought not to pass on LD 1337. LD 1337 would deny shelter to a small, uniquely vulnerable population of people who are already facing further marginalization. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on this bill. Thank you!