

Emily H  
Boothbay Harbor  
LD 1432

I am a public school teacher of all who enter my classroom. I have taught your children for a quarter of a century.

When I was earning my Master's degree in education, my classmates and I were warned to not teach in Maine because at that time, sexual orientation was not protected in Maine. I did not understand the meaning of that warning until I began to teach in Maine and saw the fear my colleagues who were gay had about being outed in their community and subsequently fired. Why would Maine go back on its word and legalize discrimination towards a group of people? Were I a legislator, I would be ashamed to be part of such an action. Think what example it sets for our children to reject this bill. Rejecting this bill would reject shaming people for their appearance. Rejecting this bill would reject firing people for their identity. We should be showing the hospitality and love that brings people to Maine and is how our large intergenerational family networks support each other.