

**To:** Judiciary Committee

**From:** Hadley Couraud

**Date:** May 8, 2025

**RE: Testimony in opposition of L.D. 1337 “An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women’s Single-sex Shelters.”**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Hadley Couraud, and I live in Norway, ME; I am writing today as a resident and community member in Maine. I am testifying in opposition to L.D. 1337 “An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women’s Single-sex Shelters.” When I moved to Maine seven years ago, I was struck by the commitment to community found all over the State. I believe strongly that the true measure of a state’s integrity is found in how it treats its marginalized communities and those in greatest need. We need to hold ourselves accountable to being more than ‘vacationland’.

Trans women in Maine already face serious barriers to accessing appropriate shelter – in addition to disproportionate risks of violence – when they are unhoused. To allow exemptions to fundamental anti-discrimination requirements, detailed in the Maine Human Rights Act, is to further endanger our community members, and weaken our state’s ability to defend the rights of all and each of us. We cannot in good conscience abandon these core and sacred principles.

As a human and a resident of Maine, I implore you - please - use your power to step up and protect the rights and well-being of women and student-athletes in our state. I urge you to oppose L.D. 1337. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,  
Hadley Couraud