

Jeffrey Hotchkiss Portland

May 8, 2025

Testimony Against LD 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432, and 380

All the above bills which erase transgender identity and increase risk of harm to trans people in Maine

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Good morning. My name is Jeffrey Hotchkiss, and I am a proud Maine grandfather.

I am disappointed to have to testify, yet again, against legislation targeting transgender people. We already had this debate, four years and two days ago, in front of this very same committee. Humanity, science, common sense and community prevailed then. I hope it may do so again.

I have friends from the whole spectrum of sexual and gender orientation, including transgender people. I have witnessed their despair when society prevents them from being who they are, and their joy when they finally are able to fulfill their whole being.

I am aware of the frequent harassment and high murder rates of transgender people around the country, as well as the high risk of suicide for transgender teens and young adults due to persecution.

The medical science I read about 50 years ago validated the existence of transgender people. It has been confirmed and deepened in understanding since then. Indeed, the science goes back more than a century in the West¹, and many more enlightened societies have respected and honored transgender people for millennia, with good reason.

This series of bills would impose unneeded, medically harmful, and cruel restrictions on our children and adult friends, neighbors and loved ones. We will see a continued worsening of the harassment, assault, suicide and murder of trans people of all ages. And we will also see the continued rollback of the rights of LGBTQ+ people and women.

I want my grandkids to grow up in a state where they and all of their friends can be safe and unpersecuted for being who they are. Please vote to reject these awful bills.

Thank you for your attention, and I welcome any questions.

Jeffrey Hotchkiss Portland, ME

1 See Histories of the Transgender Child, by Jules Gill-Peterson, 2018, University of Minnesota Press.