

James Richter
Lewiston
LD 1432

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May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee. My name is James Richter. I'm a resident of Lewiston and I am here as a concerned citizen and a close relative of two young people, currently living in a different state, who identify as transgender or nonbinary

I am here today to state my opposition to LD 1432, which would remove gender identity from the classifications deserving protection from discrimination in the Maine Human Rights Act.

For most people, transgender identity is not a choice but a physiological condition in which the determinants of gender identity in the body and brain have become misaligned in fetal development. Transgenders do not present a threat to the general public; they receive no privilege by virtue of their status. Rather, the ones I know are quite fragile people, ashamed of their bodies' misrepresentation of who they are, and do their best to keep a low profile. Unfortunately, particularly in the last two years, unprincipled, vicious people have decided to exploit public ignorance and fear of the unknown and target this small, vulnerable segment of society for their own political gain.

Unfortunately, these people absolutely require protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.