

Dorothy Raymond
Norway
LD 1704

May 7, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the bills regarding transgender youth and community members.

Our names are Harold Buote Jr and Dorothy Raymond. We are residents of Norway, Maine and we are writing on behalf of our family, friends, and community. As people of faith, we are very concerned about these discriminatory anti-transgender and anti-LGBTQ bills.

We are firmly and profoundly against the passage of these bills. We oppose the following bills before the committee on May 8th.

LD233
LD868
LD1002
LD1134
LD1704
LD1337
LD1432
LD380

We are the proud grandparents of a transgender child, cousin to another transgender child, two bi-sexual kids, a gay grandson and a gay granddaughter, so these discriminatory bills have the deepest meaning for us. We also have many LGBTQ friends and family and are horrified at the apparent focused war on civil and human rights for our beloved community.

All our kids are normal, happy, supported, successful children and young adults. Their worst problem is the nasty, cruel, uninformed discrimination they experience and which is now being promoted by these bills, using trans children who participate in sports as a weapon to further an agenda to roll back civil rights of LGBTQ people, people of color, women, immigrants, and many others.

Passing these bills would reward the federal government's bullying tactics and open the door for further attacks on Mainers' civil rights, but it won't make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.

These bills are intrusive, traumatizing, and encouraging of bullying and harassment of trans kids and girls in general. These bans empower schools to engage in policing gender norms, which unfairly scrutinizes girls' bodies, and have been shown to affect girls of color even more. These bans will cause fear, distrust, and confusion for students, families, and educators.

LD 1337 puts trans women in jeopardy. Trans women in Maine already face serious barriers to accessing appropriate shelter—not to mention disproportionate risks of violence—when they are unhoused. Shelters know how to keep all women safe and have been doing it for years.

The issues of sports participation are already being handled appropriately by the correct organizations and governing associations to ensure fairness. Sports should be as fair and safe as possible for all students. Being a trans athlete is no guarantee of great success or failure.

Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

Thank you for your consideration,

Harold Buote Jr and Dorothy Raymond
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