

152 North Rd
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May 7, 2025

Testimony in Opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. I am a citizen of Maine, an educator, and a mental health professional. I am writing to you today in opposition to all of the bills listed above, each of which seeks to restrict, contain, and/or deny the rights of transgender people in Maine, in many cases singling out those who identify as male to female transgender.

Maine's existing laws that govern the matters addressed in these bills rightly protect the rights of people who identify as a gender other than that assigned at birth. They assign appropriate discretion to the professional health care providers, educators, athletic governing entities, and others to make and guide important decisions regarding issues of affirming care, athletic participation, use of facilities appropriate to their identity. They honor each person's desire to be referred to in the way that respects their identity. These laws also honor and protect the rights of cisgender people, and have for many, many years. There is no need to change this long history of protection of human rights, hard won and carefully crafted and guided, in Maine.

For the last five years Maine has acknowledged and worked hard to provide assistance for the growing mental health crisis among both adults and children and adolescents in our state. People who struggle due to their gender identity often are bullied and discriminated against and are the most at risk for suicide and other mental health crises. One of the best ways to improve the mental health of all people is to honor, respect, include, and affirm ALL people.

I urge you to honor the rights of ALL people of Maine by deciding that these bills ought not to pass.

Thank you for your consideration, your time and your attention.

Deborah Drew

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