

John Haddad
Unorganized Territory of South Oxford
LD 1432

Hello members of the Judiciary Committee. I am writing you to express my strong opposition to LD233, LD868, LD1002, LD1134, LD1704, LD1337, LD1432 and LD380. In May of 1933, the nazis destroyed Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Science and burned his libraries. The books they burned were his research on the existence of sexualities and gender expressions which differed from the nazis' authoritarian and unscientific belief in rigid patriarchy and strict gender roles. The images of this book burning are perhaps the most well known images of nazi book burnings. I refer to their beliefs, and the beliefs of many conservatives in power today as unscientific, because they are indeed absolutely false. Nothing in nature is a binary, and that includes both sex and gender. To those that disagree, I ask you to simply google the condition "Klinefelter syndrome". LD1337, LD1432 and LD380 are particularly troubling. We know that not only do bills like these dramatically increase the rates of suicide, depression and other mental health conditions, but they also directly attack the ideas of personal freedom and liberty that this country claims to uphold. I find these bills to be objectively antithetical to the core of a nation whose founding slogans include "Don't Tread On Me" and "Liberty Or Death". For those who are offended by nazi comparisons, I ask you to read the history of the nazis, particularly the Night of Long Knives, and see how similar the actions and rhetoric of the Republican Party are to those of pre-war nazi Germany. I ask the Judiciary Committee to oppose any and all bills which attack the rights of queer people and to make a statement that fascism and bigotry will not be tolerated here in the great state of Maine. Thank you.