

theresa blachura  
linneus  
LD 1432

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Linneus, Maine

Testimony Opposing ME HP0500, LD1002, LD1134, LD1337, LD1432, LD233,  
LD380, and LD868

Maine Judiciary Committee – May 8, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Theresa Blachura, and I live in Linneus, Maine. I am writing today in strong opposition to the slate of anti-transgender bills being considered, including HP0500, LD1002, LD1134, LD1337, LD1432, LD233, LD380, and LD868. As a nonbinary and pansexual Mainer, a social worker, and a therapist who works closely with youth, I see firsthand the devastating impact these bills would have—on young people, on the LGBTQ+ community, and on our shared sense of safety and dignity.

Several of these bills target the fundamental rights of transgender youth and adults to exist openly, safely, and authentically. Others—such as LD233 and LD868—pose a direct threat to individuals like me, who already navigate stigma and discrimination in everyday life. These proposals don't just legislate policy; they legislate shame, fear, and erasure.

I work with young people every day who are doing their best to survive in a world that often tells them they are too much, too different, or too invisible. These bills would force many of them back into the closet, make schools more hostile, and increase risks of anxiety, depression, and self-harm. No child—or adult—should have to live in fear simply because of who they are.

I also know what it feels like to be silenced, to be treated like my identity is something to be debated or erased. Legislation like this doesn't protect anyone. It isolates. It harms. And it tells people like me that we are less worthy of protection, dignity, and life.

I urge you to reject these harmful, discriminatory bills and to instead affirm the rights and humanity of all Mainers—especially those most at risk of being marginalized and harmed. Please stand for inclusion, truth, and the right of every person to live openly, safely, and without fear.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to justice.

Sincerely,  
theresa Blachura