

Representative Pugh, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is __Joanne Sterling__. I am a resident of _Peaks Island and am testifying in opposition to LD 1337. I submit this as a member of my Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, which affirms and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I am a member of New Brackett Church and MUUSAN, the Maine UU State Advocacy Network which supports legislation that embodies these values.

- This bill would exempt privately owned shelters providing emergency service to women from anti-discrimination requirements as detailed in the Maine Human Rights Act (MHRA). This bill also amends the MHRA to align with Federal Title IX analysis related to rights of female athletes.
- **This legislation would remove rights from trans women who need housing and shelter.** 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.

I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1337.

Thank you,

Joanne Sterling