

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 1432. 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.

- The Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005. Passing this 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.
- **This legislation will actively harm all youth and would promote cruelty instead of fairness.** It will sow fear, distrust and confusion in schools across the state, and put a target on the backs of a small group of vulnerable students who already receive a great deal of hostility.
- I know some trans children on the island and I want them to thrive and know that they are loved and supported in their school and community. This bill unnecessarily call out trans children for political gain and traumatize all trans school children.

I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1432.

Thank you,

Joanne Sterling