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Poland, Maine
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LD 1432: An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

Senator Cary, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Ann Dorian. I'm a resident of Poland, Maine. As a concerned citizen, I am offering testimony in opposition of this bill before the committee today.

As a mother, an educator and community member, I've come to experience the fullness of life here in Maine. This bill being put forth is in opposition to the human rights and decent humanity we all equally deserve, regardless of gender. These bills aim to attack our most vulnerable population of transgender and non-binary girls out of bigotry and hatred. Maine is a progressive leader in our country, calling upon each of our greatest inner qualities to move forward in a civilized society. These bills will pull us back further into dark times, violating students' civil rights.

Growing up here in Maine, there was nothing I wanted more than to be in community with friends. As a child of poverty and neglect, sports and the arts saved my life. It gave me purpose and meaning. The joy of accomplishment, hard work, connection and the love of sports and creativity, was more valuable than I can measure. It was a gift I was able to instill in my daughters as well.

Those same feelings of love, pride and accomplishment for our trans and non-binary girls, should be the focus of our efforts today. Instead, we're putting our energy into placating bigots. Imagine what it must be like for our trans or non-binary girls today, having to experience such cruelty out of hatred, ignorance and fear from their own communities. I wouldn't want that for my daughters. Would you?

Each and every trans and non-binary girl deserves celebration for the extraordinary gifts they bring to life with curiosity and fullness. They deserve praise for their compassion to connect with their world. They deserve respect and grace for the courage they have to follow their truest self, while paving their own path with creativity and confidence. Our world is a better place because these girls are willing to live fully. Instead, they are bearing the burden of cruelty no one deserves. It's inhumane and unlawful.

I ask you to oppose this bill being put forth today as a life saving measure for our trans and non-binary girls. This will only bring harm to this vulnerable population of girls and ultimately all girls in the State of Maine. They deserve the dignity to experience a childhood with freedom, celebration and love, like you would want for your own family.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" this bill. Thank you.