

Daralyn Maxwell  
Topsham  
LD 1432

Daralyn (Dal) Maxwell  
Topsham, Maine  
May 7, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee -

My name is Daralyn Maxwell; a resident of Topsham, a long-time resident of Maine, and an equally long-time trans activist. I want to thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I am writing this in opposition to LD 1002, LD 1704, LD 1432, and LD 380. As a long-time political observer in my activism, I have watched the rise and fall of acceptance of trans issues and trans people. On these four bills under consideration, I see a certain amount of government overreach in matters which far outweigh the presence of the people affected by them; yet the consequences of passing any or all of them in human toll is significant.

Regarding LD 1002, the intention here seems to be to crush the innocence and curiosity of a child during critical development. Why is it so distasteful to allow a child to explore one of the cores of their existence; the self? This is not rubber stamping anything except that childhood self-discovery. Children need to find out who they are, now more than ever, and to place this level of stigma on a small child could leave scars that would deeply affect them for the rest of their lives.

Regarding LD 1704, it seems that the intention here is to minimize and persecute older children and teens at another critical stage in their development. For those who fear the ramifications, consider that for the absolute majority of trans people the act of using a public bathroom facility is a fearful and daunting task made worse by the hysteria promoted by people who do not understand what being trans actually means and entails. A bathroom stop is neither a recreational activity nor a tourist attraction, and treating trans people like criminals for seeking to be able to survive their day like everyone else shouldn't invoke terror or the fear of shame and humiliation.

Regarding LD 1432, this is as egregious an overreach as one could imagine. The State of Maine makes accommodation for all manner of variations to the human equation. We have mandated ASL interpreters for the hearing impaired, ramps for wheelchair users, our hospitals have interpreters for dozens of languages other than English; yet if you declare as a trans person you apparently cease to matter. Considering the small percentage of trans people that actually exist in Maine (let alone on the planet) I seems like an extraordinary amount of energy is being spent to marginalize or eradicate us altogether. Aren't there ANY other compelling issues that you could represent that would be of benefit to the vast majority of Mainers without rank discrimination becoming the law of the land?

Regarding LD 308, I again raise the specter of overreach without platform. How does it become the purview of the government, state or otherwise, to interfere with the parental rights of people who, beyond having a child claiming a gender identity other than that of their birth, have control of their family situation? We aren't addressing any outrageous abuse of any kind! Rather, people are allowing their children some latitude in determining who they are as young human beings? Is THAT the hill you want to stand your ground on with everything else in the world to deal with?

The medical profession has yet to determine the cause of what makes someone trans. The mental health field doesn't have a concise plan for treatment of people of any age with gender identity issues. It shouldn't become the (apparently sole) responsibility of possibly ill- or uninformed elected officials to chart the paths of human beings who they know nothing about other than a claim to a trans identity. Trans people are a very small percentage of the overall population, yet the amount of attention paid to them is astounding.