

Sarah Shepro  
Portland  
LD 1337

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Sarah Shepro, I'm a resident of Portland. I'm here to strongly oppose LD1337, and the other anti-trans bills being heard by the committee today. These bills are nothing more than an unjustified attempt to systematically erase trans people.

It's a myth that trans women pose a threat to cisgender women. In fact, trans women would be far more likely to experience physical and mental harm if they were forced to stay at a men's shelter or safehouse than a cis women would experience from sharing such a space with trans women.

As a cis woman, I have never once felt threatened by sharing spaces with trans women or people who identify as nonbinary. I shared an apartment with two other women for a year, one trans and one cis. At no point did I ever feel uncomfortable with having a trans roommate, let alone threatened.

The exclusion of shelters and safehouses is also inconsistent with the definition of public accommodations in the Maine Human Rights Act, which reads, "a facility, operated by a public entity or private entity, whose operations fall within at least one of the following categories" end quote, with the relevant category being, quote, "A day care center, senior citizen center, homeless shelter, food bank, adoption agency or other social service center establishment." This bill undermines the Maine Human Rights Act by adding stipulations that are altogether inconsistent with the content of the Act as written, and violates state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!