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South Thomaston, Maine
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Testimony Opposing LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Sue Campbell. I'm a resident of South Thomaston, the Executive Director of OUT Maine, and the proud parent of a transgender son. I urge you to strongly oppose all of the anti-trans bills before you.

These bills are profoundly harmful, not just to transgender youth, but to all young people. As a parent who has fought to keep my child alive, I can tell you that policies like these endanger children's mental health and well-being. And they send a devastating message: that some young people don't belong and don't matter.

When my son was in high school a decade ago, he was bullied, shoved into lockers, and physically assaulted in a locker room by so-called friends. He stopped playing sports and other activities. The message was loud and clear: he wasn't safe, and he didn't belong. As a result, he became deeply depressed and suicidal.

Imagine if this was your child. How would you feel?

This is the daily reality for many transgender youth in Maine. Their rates of suicidal ideation and attempts are far higher than their cisgender peers, because of rejection, discrimination, and lack of support.

At the time, we couldn't find care in Maine. We eventually found a provider in Rhode Island, a four-hour drive each way. We were fortunate to have the means to make that journey. Many families don't. No family should have to cross state lines to access life-saving care.

Whether these bills seek to ban students from sports, deny access to restrooms, refuse to use correct names and pronouns, or restrict healthcare—they all have the same effect: they strip away rights, safety, and dignity from trans youth.

These bills don't just hurt kids - they threaten families, futures, and the fabric of our communities.

This is not about politics. It's about people—real people—our neighbors, our classmates, our family members. Trans youth are not a threat; they are part of Maine. And they deserve to live safely, access healthcare, play sports, and exist without fear.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills and stand for compassion, safety, and equality for all Mainers. Thank you.