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LD 1337

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to LD 1337, “An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women’s Single-sex Shelters.” This bill is a harmful step backward for civil rights in Maine.

LD 1337 purports to protect women and ensure safety, but its true effect would be to exclude transgender individuals from public accommodations, particularly sports teams and shelters. This exclusion is not only discriminatory—it is dangerous.

Transgender women are women. Denying them access to women’s shelters places them at heightened risk of violence, homelessness, and mental health crises.

Similarly, banning transgender girls from playing on girls’ sports teams does not promote fairness; it isolates and stigmatizes children who are already vulnerable.

Maine has a proud history of protecting the rights of all people under the Maine Human Rights Act, including those of diverse gender identities. LD 1337 would undermine those protections, setting a precedent that some Mainers are less deserving of dignity and safety than others.

The rhetoric behind this bill is not based in evidence. It ignores guidance from medical and psychological experts, and it misrepresents the reality of transgender people’s lives. What’s needed in our shelters and our schools is compassion, not exclusion; inclusion, not fear.

I urge the committee to reject LD 1337 and to stand firmly on the side of equality, justice, and human dignity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.