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LD 1704

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I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today. They are vile attacks against an already marginalized group who need our support now more than ever. Trans youth should be made to feel like they belong and are celebrated, not like they are predators who adults are viewing as threats to their peers. I work with trans youth and know them to be caring, curious kids, with the same interests and needs as all kids, including acceptance and support in the pursuits of their choice, like sports. These laws would bar trans youth from accessing critical supports aligned with their interests, and further would cause a sense of isolation and rejection of youth by our society, which will be detrimental to their mental health and sense of belonging in our community. Trans people of all ages in our state deserve protection under the law, and inclusion in the cultural social sphere. Please vote today to protect the rights of some of our most marginalized Mainers who have done nothing to deserve these attacks to their freedom of choice and how to live. I urge you to vote ought not to pass on these bills. Thank you.