

Emanuel Pariser
Waterville
LD 1432

May 7th, 2025

To: Senator Anne Carney
Representative Amy Kuhn
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
From: Emanuel Pariser, Waterville, Maine Resident

RE: LD 1432 Testimony opposing LD 1432, "An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act."
Date of Hearing: May 8th, 2025

Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

I would like to voice my opposition to LD 1432 for the following reasons:

1. Our trans population is being unethically and unfairly targeted throughout our country and in Maine and this bill falls into line with these trans-phobic efforts.
2. Our laws are meant to protect the most vulnerable among us, not target them. As you all are aware the trans community is particularly vulnerable to discrimination already; taking their protection out of Maine Human Rights Act will validate discrimination and make it worse.
3. According to national statistics more than one quarter of all transgender people have lost their job due to discrimination with one result quite likely being that nearly one in five have experienced long term homelessness.
4. Given the high number of trans folks who are homeless at one point in their life, allowing emergency shelters to discriminate against them seems pointless and cruel, and in the winter time in Maine, tantamount to a death sentence.
5. I have been a teacher in Maine since 1973, and I want to be sure that every child in the schools I work in feel protected and safe to be who they are. I can only imagine the terrible effect of having gender police in girls' changing rooms checking on who was transgender and who wasn't. This does not protect girls and women it totally violates their privacy.
6. Some of my relatives were lucky enough to escape Germany before being placed in concentration camps. The Nazis started by attacking homosexuals; this attack on trans people is disturbingly similar and it is a slippery slope to whoever the next group of people to be demonized will be.

I know there are multiple bills coming up that are discriminatory against trans citizens. I am in opposition to all of them. Thank you for hearing these bills and acting with integrity on them. I look forward to hearing that this committee roundly voted each of them "ought not to pass."

Emanuel Pariser
Waterville, Maine