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LD 380

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

Thank you for the opportunity to engage with the Committee.

My name is Lyn Bell; I'm a resident of Norway. I have spent my life in community service, first as a Marine, a deputy sheriff, and in my retirement, a teacher and elected official in Oxford County. I am also the parent of a transgender child.

I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

If these measures are allowed to pass, then who's next? In the authors' haste to discriminate they have left out intersexed people. When you find a female student with testes due to an SRY gene variation, will she be expelled from her sports team? Will you decide the African American kids have an athletic advantage over their white classmates, because it's obvious those who wrote these bills don't care about scientific evidence.

How disappointing it is that on the 95th anniversary of the burning of the Hirshfield Institute in Germany, we are back here attempting to eradicate the existence of transgender people, all because the authors of these bills are so arrogant to think theirs is the only acceptable way to live, and that gender identity is a social contagion rather than the many facets on a gemstone.

The people gathered here today, and all those at home worried about what you will do to them next, they just want peace and the chance to live their lives authentically.

It is unfortunate that if these bills are allowed to pass, we will watch our youth suicide rates climb and you will wonder why because you've destroyed their path to tell you who they were. Don't take away their identities. Don't take away their names. Don't tell the world you are no better than those brown shirts burning books and imprisoning people for the way they saw themselves.

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.