

Katherine Branch
SOUTH PARIS
LD 233

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

My name is Katherine Branch. I am a resident of South Paris and I am here as a community activist and friend and family to trans people. I am in opposition to LD 233.

I am deeply concerned about the rash of anti-trans bills that are being addressed today.

Bills that discriminate against transgender people of all ages violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. LD 233, are discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore are not constitutional.

If these bills are passed I fear it will be opening a door to a host of other prejudicial, hate based legislation to attack more Mainers civil rights. The national political agenda to disempower women and marginalized populations should not interfere with the Maine Human Rights Act.

It is heart breaking to see my friends and loved ones fear as they face this kind of abuse that wants to disappear, take away their autonomy, their healthcare, and ability to live their truths. This kind of legislation dramatically endangers people who are already facing bullying and abuse and have a high rate of suicidal ideation.

Please do not pass LD 233. Thank you for your service, Katherine