

Sarae Pacetta  
Portland  
LD 1432

My name is Sarae Pacetta and I'm the parent of a transgender 17 year old. We moved to Maine from Ohio to have a place where our nonbinary transgender child could thrive. I'm testifying against LD1432.

The Maine Human Rights Act has protected my child a number of times over the almost 6 years we have lived here. When we were in Ohio, we didn't have any redress when my child was bullied for their gender identity and when they were forced to choose the wrong sports team.

Transgender students are fragile - their rates of depression and suicide attempts are higher than cisgender students, and being bullied and left out because of their gender identity, something innate to who they are, is damaging. It is critical that Maine protects their rights to participate in all academic, extracurricular, and athletic programs without facing discrimination.

Thank you for your time with my testimony, and please help Maine continue to be a safe place for our beautiful children.