

Lauren Ostrov  
Portland  
LD 868

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Lauren Ostrov, a resident of Portland. I am writing today in opposition to ALL of the anti-trans bills before the committee today.

My child is gender-queer, which means his gender identity does not correspond to conventional binary gender distinctions. It has been clear that this is who he truly is since he was a toddler. We have been lucky that he has attended a school and lived in a community that is supportive and kind and allowed him to flourish.

I am deeply afraid that other kids will not be as fortunate as mine going forward if Maine capitulates to the unwarranted and hateful national hysteria about trans people by enacting these bills to restrict the rights of our queer youth and others in our state. Schools should be able to create supportive environments where every student can receive an education, participate in school activities and feel safe. Our community should seek to protect LGBTQ+ people of all ages.

Violence, hate crimes and discrimination against trans people have increased dramatically since the current administration began targeting them during its presidential campaign. Maine must stand up to this politically motivated agenda and protect its people and its own laws. Passing these bills would adversely impact trans kids and adults and all Maine women and girls in our community and also encourage more violence and hatred here, which would adversely impact all of us. That is not the Maine I know and love.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with the Committee. I urge you to vote Ought not to Pass on ALL of these bills.