

Ted LaCrone
Portland
LD 1432

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Ted LaCrone, a resident of Portland, and I'm here on behalf of HopeGateWay, a community of faith in Portland, Maine. I am writing to vehemently oppose LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. As a person of faith, I write to you with deep concern about these bills that seek to restrict access to sports teams, public restrooms, health care, and legal protections against discrimination based on gender identity.

My faith tells me we must protect the most vulnerable among us. Trans youth are one of the most vulnerable communities within this state and the country. These bills are harmful because they further marginalize an already marginalized group of students and adults who have the same right to a safe, supportive environment as their peers. To deny them the right to participate in their daily life based on who they are is unjust, unfair, and anti-Christian. Finally, here in Maine, we share a deep understanding of community, care for our neighbors and respect for people to live life on their own terms- even if we disagree.

I ask you to stop these harmful bills from moving forward. As a person of faith and resident of Maine, please choose inclusion over exclusion and justice over discrimination. Let us be a kind community where all children-transgender children included- are seen, safe, and celebrated.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments.