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Greetings:

Thank you for taking the time to read this information being submitted regarding the bills related to transgendered individuals.

I am not an educator. I am not active in sports. However, I am a parent and a grandparent.

I am writing because I strongly believe that all lives need to be valued and all individuals need to be able to be true to themselves. Why would we not support all individuals?

In the past I have worked with numerous transgendered individuals. These individuals have all had to deal with a wide variety of complicated issues. They have all struggled. They don't have an easy path. We need to support all humans. Period.

There are many ways that we can deal with the challenges in working with transgendered youth in positive, affirming ways. What we don't need is knee jerk reactions to complicated issues or posturing to cater to a particular segment of the population. Instead, we need to look to the experts in this field, learn all that we can and make careful, slow, measured decisions regarding the youth in our communities. Please be leaders, please look at the big picture. The people of Maine have been leaders in many ways. Please continue to lead using wisdom, knowledge and empathy.

Thank you.

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