

cam howard  
Belfast, ME  
LD 1432

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

My name is cam howard, I currently live in Belfast. I grew up in Princeton ME and I have also lived in Portland, and I am a transsexual nonbinary person. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I started exploring my gender as a part of my mental health journey. I spent many years depressed and unsure of how to launch my adult life. When I started taking testosterone, it was because I had learned about the toll that gender dysphoria can take on people's self esteem, and I wondered if experimenting with gender affirming hormones would help me. I was relieved to find that it did, and now, I have been on gender affirming hormones for three years.

So I ask - why would a group of legislators want to strip me of my civil liberties and legal protections for doing what I need to do to be healthy? Removing Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act does not improve the lives of any Mainers - it only emboldens prejudiced people to discriminate against members of my community. We rely on legislature like this to keep us safe. Please think of all the people, already scared and discriminated against, who are relying on this legislation to be safe.

Please vote "Ought not to Pass" on this bill.