

Testimony of Sarah Cushman, Resident of Portland – May 8, 2025

Against: LD 1432: An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with the Committee.

My name is Sarah Cushman, I am a resident of Portland, and I'm a Christian mom and member of Portland Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

I oppose LD 1432 and I am submitting testimony in opposition of all the bills before the committee today.

As someone born and raised in Maine, **our state has to stand up against the national political agenda that is interfering with our rights to make our own laws.** We are an independent and free-thinking state.

Passing this would reward the federal government's bullying tactics and open the door for further attacks on Mainers' civil rights, but **it won't make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.** You cannot let this happen on your watch.

And as a Christian woman, I know that **we are all children of God** and we are each called to "...'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31 **This bill does the opposite and leaves ALL Mainers vulnerable to scrutiny, invasions of privacy, harassment, and potential violence based on gender identity.**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee, **and for doing what's best for ALL the people of Maine** this legislative session.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on LD 1432 and every bill before the committee today.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cushman