

Catherine Eliot
South Portland
LD 1432

My name is Catherine Eliot and I'm from South Portland, and I strongly oppose LD 1432, An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act. This is a step backward in Maine's ability to protect marginalized people. As a 70 year old lesbian who came out in 1977, I have been heartened by the slow but steady progress of society's accepting of LGBTQ folks. When I moved to Maine 35 years ago, I fought hard to get "sexual orientation" added to the Maine Human Rights Act, weathering the ups and downs of legislation and referendums. I am now privileged to be in a protected class! But I would never rest easy knowing that my beloved trans friends, colleagues, teachers, veterans, active military, medical professionals, accountants, artists.....all those people who contribute to a vibrant Maine culture and economy would be stripped of protection from discrimination in housing, employment or education. How would it possibly enhance life in Maine to discriminate against ANYONE? And why would we roll back protections that are already in place and have not proved to be injurious to the social fabric of Maine. Thank you for listening to my point of view, and thank you for your service to the people of Maine.

Respectfully,
Catherine Eliot