

Tyler Rukstales
Waterville
LD 1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Tyler Rukstales and I am a constituent of Waterville. I am writing this testimony on behalf of my transgender peers and the community as a whole. I am testifying against LD1432. To remove gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act would not only be a blatant disregard for human rights and safety, but also completely pointless and unnecessary. The Maine Human Rights Act serves to protect the people of Maine from discrimination in the workplace, in schools, in housing and other public services and accessibilities. To take gender identity out of this act is nonsensical and clearly motivated by bad faith. How would this in any way benefit our people? There is no good that can come from removing a group of marginalized individuals from an act designed to protect marginalized communities. It will not help anyone, or won't improve anything in Maine. It is simply making a portion of our population more vulnerable. If one group of people is made vulnerable, the rest of us are made weaker in the process. We the People of Maine need to stand up for our neighbors, whether or not we like them or agree with them on certain matters, we must stick together in times of crisis. There is no benefit to forcing transgender people under the bus, it will only weaken our state and community and throw all of us into peril.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on LD1432