

Allison Brzezinski  
Camden  
LD 1432

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. My name is Allison Brzezinski (they/them), a trans/non-binary resident of Camden, Maine and I am here on behalf of my community. I am writing to share my opposition to all of the proposed bills that are intended to roll back protections for trans individuals.

Gender identity should absolutely remain a protected category in the Maine Human Rights Act. Anything else is dehumanization pure and simple. It is discrimination based on bogus science, because regardless of what the current presidential administration may believe and promote, gender is real and different from biological sex. It is different from sexual orientation, too. We are still only beginning to understand the importance that gender plays in the well being of individuals, both trans and cis-gendered. By implementing legislation such as this, the state would be writing prejudice into law. The remaining protections on the basis on sex/sexual orientation would not be sufficient to protect all people, including myself, as a trans/non-binary person. By not including gender identity, this legislation would be used to erase the legal existence of trans people, legally. However, trans people have always and will always exist and deserve to be protected like all other humans in this country and in this state.

Nothing good can come from this legislation being passed in a trans refuge state at a time when anti-trans legislation is spreading at an exceedingly dangerous rate. Maine has been and should remain a state where trans individuals of all ages and backgrounds feel protected. Passing this legislation would be a regression for the state as it would no longer be protecting some of our most vulnerable community members. As a 36 year old trans/non-binary person, I have felt relatively safe knowing what protections have been made into law for my community.

If this legislation passes, my day to day life as a trans person will change dramatically as it will lead to further bigotry and vitriol towards the trans community. I shudder to think about the ripple effect this reversal in trans protections will mean for the future of human rights in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills as they will have a devastating impact for trans people of all ages. Thank you!