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LD 1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before the Committee.

My name is Cathy Kidman. My wife, Ramona Morrisette, and I live in South Portland. We are aunts of two transgender family members and I am writing in opposition to the anti-trans bills before the committee on May 8, 2025. Specifically LD 233; LD 868; LD 1002; LD 1134; LD 1704; LD 1337; LD 1432; and LD 380.

All of the bills before you today are discriminatory. Full stop.

I know many of the members of this committee remember, as I do, the many, many years of contentious legislative hearings and public votes in Maine that finally resulted in the 2005 civil rights protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

I remember when, in 2006 applying for a job, I finally felt and experienced employment security because of these protections. I remember finally feeling a sense of belonging and safety in this State I grew up in. I ask you today to ensure that my transgender family members and all transgender Mainers have the same opportunity to live free of discrimination, secure in the knowledge that they are safe and they belong - as I do now.

20 years later we are in a severe backlash. A backlash in which targeting transgender children and adults is just the beginning. If you fail to hold the line here, if you allow these discriminatory bills to pass and move forward to become law, the door will open to further erosion of our protections.

We have come too far to turn back the gains in this State.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.