

Maeve Porter Holliday
Portland
LD 1432

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Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Maeve Porter Holliday, I am a resident of Portland. I am testifying today in opposition of bill LD 1432.

I am a violence prevention educator, I have lived nearly my entire life in Maine, and I am a part of the LGBTQIA community. I implore you to oppose the removal of gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act because the removal of this phrase is the symbolic erasure of a community. It is an attempt at the removal of the right to live without fear of persecution based on identity. Since the bill addresses discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation, credit and educational opportunity, it could have severe economic impacts for queer, transgender, intersex, and nonbinary individuals. Financial distress is found to be negatively associated with physical and mental health (Bialowolski et. al, 2024). Thus, by increasing the likelihood of abuse and discrimination through the removal of these human rights protections, this bill could damage the livelihoods, health, housing security, and more for transgender, intersex, and nonbinary individuals.

There are countless friends, colleagues, family members, and community members in my life that could be impacted by this. I worry about the emotional toll that it takes to see everyone I am surrounded by severely impacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I implore you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you.