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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 Kalisto Zenda Nanen, I'm a resident of Cyr Plantation, Maine, and I am here on my experience as a trans Mainer. I am here today in opposition to the bills before the committee today, including legislation that seeks to limit transgender individuals' access to facilities like bathrooms, changing spaces, and even housing. While policies targeting transgender athletes have already caused harm, this bill goes beyond restricting access to sports—it actively undermines the ability of transgender and gender-expansive individuals to participate in everyday activities like using a restroom or securing a safe place to live. I have seen firsthand the impact of inclusive spaces during my time working in Student Life alongside students who supported campus housing. Having access to a secure, welcoming home environment is essential for success in education and life, and no student should be denied a safe living space because of their gender identity or presentation.

My own family understands the value of gender-expansive spaces. In our home, our bathrooms are not separated by gender—because at the core of it, we all need a space to take care of basic human needs. Creating unnecessary barriers to public and campus facilities only enforces a false divide and isolates transgender individuals in ways that do not reflect the realities of day-to-day life.

Maine is already facing a severe housing shortage, and this bill would add yet another hurdle for transgender students and adults seeking secure housing options. Whether in a school environment or the wider community, the ability to access bathrooms and housing should not be restricted based on someone's gender identity or how others view gender and bodily autonomy.

Policies like these do not promote fairness or safety—they only increase harm and exclusion for transgender individuals trying to live their lives like anyone else. I urge the Committee to reject this bill and stand for the dignity and rights of all Mainers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass".