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Westbrook
LD 1432

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May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee today. My name is Rev. Lindsay Roan and I reside in Westbrook. I am here as a clergy member serving in hospice currently and stand in opposition of the bills before the committee today. As a hospice chaplain I have the unique privilege of talking with people who are often seeking to reflect on all life has been- where they felt great joy and where they hold regrets.

These authentic conversations are raw and often include deep exploration of what has been done and what has been left undone. Time and time again it is those who lived into their full identity- whatever identity they hold for themselves as central- that brings them peace. For some becoming a mother, or working into a successful career, or impacting change, or finding love allows them to breathe in deeper peace and breathe out distresses.

A study by Cornell Graduate Psychologist Thomas Gilovich also echoes my findings. He states, "when asked to name their single biggest regret in life, 76 percent of participants mentioned a regret about not fulfilling their ideal self."

These anti trans bills before us today will impact so many lives. They won't make a world with less trans people, but a world with fewer opportunities for trans people to fully and safely live into their truest selves. These bills will instill more fear in this world. They will cause more people to be harmed. They will strip opportunities to pursue life authentically living into one's identity without fear of harm being done. I have an obligation as a hospice chaplain to stand up and speak out. I do not want laws that will further harm, that will instill fear, and that will add deathbed distress to anyone. People deserve full lives, chances to live into authentic selves without fear, and ultimately peace. May we all hold up compassion for each other more. May we all worry less about harming and more about supporting each other. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on the bills today because to vote any other way would be harming lives, and add longer lists of distress for so many when they are breathing their last breaths. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.