

Jon Haskell-Murray
Biddeford
LD 380

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Biddeford, 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 Jon Haskell-Murray, I'm a resident of Biddeford. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I am a parent of two young children and I have grave concerns about these many anti-trans bills. I am originally from the Deep South (but now a very proud Mainer) and so I've seen firsthand what prejudice, fear, and exclusion can do to a community—and to a child. I grew up surrounded by the consequences of marginalization: kids bullied, families pushed to the edge, and people made to feel like they don't belong simply for being different. That's why I cannot stay silent when I see the same kind of fearmongering now aimed at transgender people—especially children. I want my kids to grow up in a world where everyone is treated with dignity, where facts matter more than fear, and where no child is made to feel unsafe for being themselves. That's why I'm testifying—to speak not only as a parent, but as someone who believes that compassion and truth should guide our policies, not hate and fear. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!