

Annie Hamilton
Portland, Maine
May 8, 2025

Representative SOBOLESKI, Senator MARTIN, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Annie Hamilton and I am a licensed clinical social worker providing trauma therapy to LGBTQ clients throughout the state of Maine. I am representing myself as a mental health provider whose work would be impacted by the passing of this bill. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As a trauma therapist, my goal is to support clients in leading full and productive lives. The amazing people that I work with have survived terrible events and still strive to be supportive partners, loving family members, and contributing members of their communities. My clients have gifts and talents to offer Maine that improve everyone's quality of life.

Feeling safe is the first step to healing from trauma. The current human rights protections that exist in Maine are one element of creating safety for my clients regardless of their own identities. The current protections support my clients in living fuller, more meaningful lives. The broad protections currently allow for engagement in community life without fear.

Making changes to Maine Human Rights Act now sends a message that Maine is able to be bullied and coerced by the federal administration. For the past 20 years, Maine had been known as a state where people can live freely, unimpeded by state overreach into their personal lives. Let us act now to affirm that tradition by opposing these unnecessary changes.

Respectively,
Annie Hamilton, LCSW