

Testimony in Opposition of LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, LD 380
Before the Judiciary Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to the multitude of discriminatory, anti-trans bills before the Judiciary Committee.

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I have spent my 20+ year career working with and supporting the most vulnerable and marginalized people in our state. The bills before you today will serve to further stigmatize and marginalize some of our most vulnerable residents—transgender youth and adults—by attempting to limit their access to healthcare, education, or public accommodations based solely on their gender identity. These are not abstract legal issues. These are deeply personal matters that affect real people—our neighbors, our students, our children, our coworkers.

There is **no credible medical, psychological, or legal justification for this legislation**. Every major medical association in the United States, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association, affirms that gender-affirming care is evidence-based, lifesaving, and should be accessible to those who need it.

Bills like this one do not protect anyone. They cause real harm. Studies show that transgender youth who are denied affirming care and support experience significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Conversely, when trans people are affirmed in their identity and supported in their communities, they thrive.

These bills allegedly “protect woman and girls”. This is false. In my 52 years of life, I have never once been harassed or objectified or otherwise bothered by any trans person. I have, however, been harassed and objectified by men. In fact, just yesterday, while sitting at a stop light with my windows down, a man drove by and shouted sexual comments at me.

I currently work with a trans-woman. She is smart, funny and a great colleague. Never once have I been threatened in a bathroom or anywhere else by her. I have, however, been sexually harassed and “man-splained” to by multiple men in the workplace.

These bills simply serve to scapegoat and make an enemy of a small minority of people in our community. These bills are reminiscent of segregationist bills prohibiting black people from using the same drinking fountains or sitting at the same diner counter or attending the same schools as white people. Those laws were never about the drinking fountain or the bathrooms any more than these are. **These laws are very simply today’s version of segregation. History will not look kindly on those advocating for this hate-filled legislation.**

I urge you to stand up for the marginalized, to stand up for vulnerable people just trying to live their lives.. And I urge you to vote **no** on this harmful, discriminatory, and unnecessary legislation.

Sincerely,

Angela Fileccia, LCSW
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Orono, Maine