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Raymond  
LD 1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of Maine's Judiciary Committee, I am Mike McClellan and I live in Raymond, Maine. I write today as I am unable to attend these important Public Hearings. I write to offer strong support for LD 1432, An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act.

The intent of the MHRA is to protect all individuals from discrimination and to promote equality and dignity. While the inclusion of gender as a category was originally designed to address historical and ongoing discrimination, we now live in a time where our understanding of identity has evolved. Gender is increasingly recognized as a deeply personal and often fluid aspect of the human experience—one that resists clear definition and varies widely across individuals.

By continuing to legislate based on gender, we inadvertently reinforce binary thinking and create artificial divisions that do not reflect the full spectrum of human identity. Instead of ensuring fairness, gender categories can perpetuate exclusion—particularly for nonbinary, gender nonconforming, and transgender individuals who may not fit neatly into male or female classifications.

Removing gender from the MHRA does not mean removing protections. On the contrary, it means shifting toward protections based on broader, more inclusive principles—such as individual dignity, autonomy, and freedom from discrimination based on personal characteristics or identity. We can and should maintain robust legal safeguards against sexism, misogyny, and gender-based violence—without encoding rigid gender norms into our laws.

This change would reflect Maine's commitment to human rights for all people, regardless of how they identify. It would move us toward a legal framework that emphasizes individual treatment over group classification—protecting people not because of their gender, but in spite of it.

I urge this committee to lead with vision and compassion. Let us update our laws to reflect a deeper understanding of equality—one that affirms every person's right to exist beyond labels.

Thank you.  
Mike