

Testimony of May 8 2025

Hope Rovelto- Pronouns: she/they

Resident of Augusta, ME

Owner of Little Chair Printing, Portland, ME

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Hope Rovelto. I use she/they pronouns, and I am a resident of Augusta and the owner of Little Chair Printing, a proud Queer-owned and operated small business in Portland.

I am here today to speak in strong opposition to all of the 8 bills before the committee.

As a Queer person, I know what it means to live in the closet—out of fear, hate, and bullying. When I was 20 years old, I wanted to tell my dying mother that I was gay. She told me she was okay with it—but also said, “Do not tell your father.” I kept that part of myself hidden for another 15 years. When I finally told my father, he said, “I do not agree with you and I will never go to your wedding.” That rejection continues to impact my life and our relationship today.

Is this what you want? For more people in our state to feel unsafe, unwelcome, and unloved simply for being who they are?

At Little Chair Printing, I have used my platform to create a safe, inclusive, and educational space for Queer and Trans youth. Every person deserves to live their most authentic life—free from persecution and fear.

I ask this committee: What has a trans person done to you that makes you feel so threatened?

These bills do not protect women’s sports. Instead, they open the door to bullying, discrimination, and even violence. They risk invasive and dehumanizing “gender screenings” that threaten everyone’s privacy and safety.

Trans women are not a threat to cis women. They have long been part of women’s sports, and their inclusion is supported by research and international sporting bodies. We should be supporting all women and girls, not targeting some of them for who they are.

Mainers are facing real challenges—rising housing costs, economic insecurity, and access to basic services. These bills do nothing to solve those problems. You should be focusing on issues that actually help people.

I urge you to vote “Ought Not to Pass” on all of these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective.