

The First Parish in Portland, Maine, Unitarian Universalist

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The First Parish is a Welcoming Congregation



May 8, 2025

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

I write to you as the ordained minister at First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Portland, the very church that housed the drafting of the Maine Constitution in 1820 and thus paved the way for the adoption of the Maine Human Rights Act and its later amendments concerning sexual orientation and gender identity.

With pride in that history and with gratitude for your work, I offer the following testimony in opposition to: LD 1337 and LD 1432.

The State of Maine set a nationwide example in its adoption of the Human Rights Act and in subsequent amendments. Those achievements ensured the protection of Maine's transgender population, and proved our state to be a welcoming, safe, and forward-thinking place to live.

Any new bill that attempts to reverse that good work will be as shameful as the initial acts were commendable. Such changes would be largely shaped by voices from outside the state – by disruptive individuals whose efforts are based in prejudice and ignorance rather than in a science-based and welcoming understanding of the transgender community.

As a person of faith and a proud resident of Maine, I join with clergy colleagues across the state in resisting these attempts to unravel the accomplishments of the Maine Human Rights Act. Like our famous lighthouses, we are a beacon for the rest of the nation – an example of a well-informed populace ensuring the rights of its residents. We must not let outside influences diminish that work.

I hope you'll join me in being adamantly opposed to LD 1337 and LD 1432 and to any attempt to dismantle the Maine Human Rights Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Allen'.

Rev. Norman Allen

Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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