

Jess Huddy  
Waterville  
LD 1432

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

Thank you for hearing my voice on these issues today. My name is Jess Huddy — I'm a resident of Waterville, and am writing in strong opposition to LD 1432.

What do we, as a society, have to gain by stripping protections from the Maine Human Rights Act? By removing legal protection from discrimination on the basis of gender identity, we would be making it easier for people to refuse services, housing, etc. to people solely based on who they are. This could have far-reaching effects, allowing people to act out their prejudices — legally — against anyone who doesn't fit their idea of what a woman or a man should be. This also paves the way to remove additional protections on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, etc.

We do not stand to benefit as a society by allowing discrimination against people simply because they are different than ourselves. Allowing discrimination in any form is unconscionable and is not something the State of Maine should support. Let us be a state that leads the way to a more empathetic and understanding future.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on LD 1432. Thank you for your time.