

Elizabeth-Ellen Clark  
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LD 1337

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for allowing me to exercise my right to testify. I am Elizabeth-Ellen Clark from Waterville Maine, a retired college professor who taught pediatric and psychiatric nursing for over 30 years. I am writing to state my opposition to LD1337. In my role, I studied child physical and emotional development. I also taught content on family violence. I had a student who was stabbed on the college parking lot by her estranged husband. I had two students in the same year whose estranged husband/boyfriend threatened to create violence at their pinning/graduation ceremonies. I had multiple students who were being stalked, and others who had suffered severe physical and emotional trauma at the hands of former husbands/boyfriends. A trans woman is a woman, and a human who deserves the same rights as anyone else. If she needs help, why would anyone deny her this? Focusing on a small group of women and children in this way exposes them to a greater chance of family violence and bullying. I believe legislative time could be better spent focusing on reducing the incidence of family violence, child abuse, and bullying, all of which are rampant in Maine. I hope you will choose "ought not to pass." Thank you for your time and attention.