

Ought Not to Pass - Testimony
Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Sarah Linet
Falmouth, ME
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. I submit this written testimony in strong opposition to the eight bills before you today: LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. These bills are dangerous, hateful, cruel, and just plain bad public policy. They do nothing to protect Maine kids and instead make the most vulnerable young people in our state less safe (the very opposite of your charge as a committee and as public servants). For these reasons and more, I urge you to vote **Ought Not to Pass**.

I am a cis-gendered woman and the mother of a four year-old little girl. Like almost every parent in our state, I send her each day to the public elementary school in our town. When I watch her walk into the building, I worry about her health and safety, a fear previous generations of parents did not have to share. I worry about her academic development and her social-emotional development. In my many fears for my child, I feel connected to the parents of every other student in her school and across our beautiful state. My daughter is precious and curious and gentle and kind. She is full of untapped potential and I dream of a school and a school system and a community that sees her for who she is and nurtures her unique potential. In that way, I believe I am just like every other parent in our state.

With your vote on these bills, we know that you make a decision about the life-long safety of thousands of Maine children, the children who bravely walk into the schools in your community each and every single day and the people who love them for exactly who they are. A 2024 peer-reviewed study by The Trevor Project published in [Nature Human Behaviour](#), found that “anti-transgender state-level laws has a significant and causal impact on suicide risk among transgender and nonbinary young people across the United States.” Furthermore, the findings demonstrated “a significant increase in suicide attempts among all participants whose home state had enacted at least one anti-transgender law. The highest increase in suicide attempt rates – ranging from 7% to 72% — was reported among participants younger than age 18.”

Your vote, in a very real way, is the difference between life and death for students in our state. I urge you to think about the very lives of the people in our communities and vote **Ought Not to Pass** on LD LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380.

Thank you for your work.

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LD 1337

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Thank you for your work.