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To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.”

My name is Sharon McDonnell. I am a physician and I live in Yarmouth Maine.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation. I am writing to you today in opposition of the bills before the committee.

I have worked with many social service agencies to assist in shelter design and functioning and I can say with certainty that sexual and gender identity is the least of the problems facing the clients and staff. Moreover, I am struck with the fixation that people have about the sexual identity of a small group of people. In my experience the clients and staff have compassion for their Gay and Transgender peers. I don't hear anyone expressing concern about threats from LGBTQI people, and I am shocked at the effort that some people will go to stigmatize and degrade the rights of these fellow Mainers and to make them feel like outsiders.

These bills are simply mean-spirited and offer no “protections” from any real harm.

There may be a vocal group advocating in the media about the threats posed by Gay and Trans people but for most of us, we are dumbfounded. All efforts to legislate or control these issues are odious.

Let cool minds prevail and let local people work this out. Changes to Maine law are unnecessary, and help no one. There is a lot of nuance that will never be wisely navigated by state legislation. Lets make sure there are shelters for people and not muck up the few resources we have by additional regulations. And, let us not get swept up in the fury of national fads about this.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on these bills. Thank you!”