

Erin Anderson
Whitefield
LD 1432

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Erin Anderson and I am here to oppose all of the anti-trans bills before the committee today, particularly LD 1432.

I have a 14 year old son. Like many teens he likes video games and watching movies. He has a passion for music, collects records, and plays the guitar. He rides horses and loves animals, working at a neighbor's farm after school. He has a great relationship with his teachers, a huge group of friends, and he can't wait for highschool next year. He's strong, funny, and a natural leader. In other words he is living a full and joyful life!

When my son came out as trans I had a lot of anxiety about how it would make life more difficult for him. Transitioning is never a straightforward and easy process but luckily because of Maine's long standing protections for ALL citizens, he never faced discrimination. His friends, teachers, doctors, and neighbors showed him support and care, they respect his right to live in the way that is true to him. However, those who wrote and support this bill are actively trying to take that away from him and other trans people in Maine.

By amending the Maine Human Rights Act, LD 1432 seeks to end protections for trans Mainers by removing language specific to gender identity. The bills intent is to narrow the scope of who is worthy of human rights, making life more difficult, painful, and dangerous for those whose rights are being actively attacked nationwide. If LD 1432 is passed into law as my son grows he will no longer be safeguarded from discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, housing, places of public accommodation, or in the extension of credit. He and many others will have unnecessary barriers to living the full and rich lives we all deserve. Restrictions placed on access to any aspect of public life is unacceptable and does not align with the values of the State of Maine.

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