

David W.

Cumberland, Maine

May 8, 2025

Senator Carney and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I'm a resident of Cumberland and the father of a transgender daughter. I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition of LDs, 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432, and 380.

Whether regarding school athletics, bathroom use, or human rights definitions, the intent of the bills before you today is to intimidate, marginalize, and dehumanize a small and already-vulnerable population of children in Maine. I wish I could submit today's testimony under my full name, but doing so would out my daughter and invite scrutiny and harassment. I know many other parents like me who wish they could speak out on these issues but must stay quiet to protect their kids.

To date, I have found our community to be a mostly a safe, supportive place for my daughter. Maine's human rights protections and other laws that protect trans people are on the right side of a history that is still being written. It is no time to let hate and fear take us backwards.

The bills before you today do nothing to "protect" Mainers but only invalidate and humiliate a small percentage of Maine kids. They are rooted in misogyny, fragile masculinity, and an outdated belief that anatomy must dictate one's spirit. No number of bans and discriminatory laws are going to stop trans people from existing. Why must we insist on making that existence as difficult, humiliating, and unsafe as possible?

For the sake of all trans kids and their families in Maine, please do the right thing and reject all bills that move us backwards on civil rights and equality for all Mainers.

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