Dana Stivers Phippsburg LD 1432

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dana Stivers, and I want to voice my strong support for keeping gender identity protected under the Maine Human Rights Act.

Maine has long been a place where we value fairness, dignity, and the freedom for all people to live as their authentic selves. By explicitly protecting gender identity in our Human Rights Act, we ensure that transgender and gender nonconforming Mainers are treated with the respect and equality they deserve — in housing, employment, education, and public spaces.

Removing this protection would send a dangerous message that discrimination against some of our neighbors is acceptable. That is not the Maine I know or want to be part of. Everyone deserves to live free from fear of being denied a job, a home, or basic services simply because of who they are.

I urge you to uphold Maine's commitment to fairness and inclusion by keeping gender identity in the Maine Human Rights Act. Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.