Carl Wilson Kingfield LD 1432 Carl Wilson Regarding LD 1432 8 May 2025

My name is Carl Wilson, and I am a resident of Kingfield, Maine as well as an engineering student at the University of Maine. I am against LD 1432, as I believe it to be a bill based purely on unfounded hatred as well as a potential detriment to the state's financial future.

My day-to-day life is simple: I go to classes, do assignments, and occasionally spend time with friends. On weekends I visit my girlfriend at her apartment. Sometimes I'll visit my home in Kingfield and spend some time enjoying the place where I grew up. I've spent most semesters working at a part-time job alongside my courses, and I took time out of my studies to find an in-state internship because I want to eventually have a career in Maine. I don't want to leave, but it seems I may be forced to.

Beyond these mundane moments in life, I am a trans man. My name has changed, my body is different, and I'm far happier this way than I ever was as a girl. I take hormone therapy daily, something I started nearly 1.5 years ago now. I have an upcoming surgery to get rid of the spare tissue in my chest. Without these things, I likely wouldn't have made it this far. I may still be alive if I never transitioned, but the pure disgust I had for my own body since puberty would likely stunt my growth as a person and any future work.

People like me fly under the radar when it comes to trans issues; after all, I'm just a normal college student outside of my transition. My friends literally describe me as "just some guy." I assure you, there are plenty of other trans people in this state who simply exist and live like anyone else. That's all most of us want to be: people. Removing gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act puts not only myself, but many other completely innocent people at risk. Should I have the option to be discriminated against for something that practically saved my life I will simply decide to leave, and I won't be the only one. At the end of the day my safety needs to come first in my life, and I would encourage every trans person I know to leave as soon as they could for their own sake. If you want university students, full-time residents, and working people in Maine you need to let them live like people.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you consider opposing LD 1432, if not for my sake then for the future of the state.