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As a lifelong New Englander, I am shocked at the rise in these bills that want to take us backwards. We pride ourselves on self-sufficiency and neighborliness; yet these proposed bills go against our own laws and encourage Mainers to attack each other rather than live alongside one another. Rewarding this administration's attempt at penalizing us for following our own laws also opens the door to less and less autonomy as a state to operate in accordance with our values, which harms us all. Further, these bills are based on discrimination that blocks those in need from receiving care, and again opens the door to dangerous misuse. The root of these beliefs is to control women's bodies and appearances, which harms ALL women. Cisgender women who are suspected of being transgender because they don't conform to societal standards are already being mistreated and denied access to facilities based on completely false assumptions. The answer these types of bills seeks is to define what a woman is and looks like, and to allow others to invasively inspect and police women to enforce it. This is not freedom. Maine is better than that.