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I am a student at the University of Maine and I am from Bar Harbor. I first started my transition a little over 2 years ago. In that time, I have learned how to be happier by expressing who I want to be, rather than what is expected of me based on aspects of me I had no choice over. I have become more confident, more outgoing, I have grown as a person, and it makes life worth living as I get to be someone I am proud of. In that time, I have done nothing that affects anyone else. I started hormone replacement therapy, I wear clothes I actually care for, I engage in hobbies I want to do rather than being pressured into doing because of how I was born. I have done absolutely nothing that could harm another person.

For one reason or another, many people are not always comfortable with the idea of trans people. The reason that I believe this is so is that people are not always comfortable with new things. If you have only ever heard of people who live as the gender that they were told they are based on how they were born, then I can understand how the idea of somebody not doing that is weird. But I would also say that it is true that an estimated less than 2% of the population who does their own thing without bothering anyone else doesn't really matter so long as they are being treated fairly.

It is safe to say that 2025 has not been a great year for trans people, one look at what is happening federally in the US will tell you that. Trans peoples rights are under attack, and it seems to be happening for no good reason. Me having rights doesn't hurt anyone. Despite everything happening federally, Maine is still safe. If the federal government doesn't guarantee protection, but Maine does, then I am still safe. It doesn't help the trans people living outside of Maine, but it does help the trans people in them.

LD1432 is scary. The only thing it does is remove protections against discrimination for trans people in Maine. Doing this will make nobody safer, it will only make the lives of trans people like myself scarier and more dangerous. If it were to be

passed, it would mean that my landlord has the right to decide whether I get to stay in my apartment or not based on how they feel about trans people. It would mean I could be denied a job based on nothing other than how the employer feels about trans people. Or it could mean that if I had a job I could be treated unfairly because one of my co-workers doesn't like trans people. It could mean I could be denied a loan. It could mean a trans person could be excluded from participating in school activities.

None of these things would protect anyone from a "trans-boogymen." The only thing it would accomplish is making trans people vulnerable to discrimination. For me, it would make it so that even though I have not done anything to anyone, I could be denied opportunities and discriminated against based on how someone feels about the idea of my existence. With things being as they are federally, the inclusion of gender identity protection being included in the Maine Human Rights Act makes me feel safe. I can exist, and people can't try to stop me. All this bill would do is take away that ability for me to feel safe where I live. There is no tangible effect to removing these protections aside from making me more vulnerable.

I ask the people voting on this bill to please not let it pass. I want to feel safe. That is the least that I could expect from the place I live, and this bill takes that right away from me. The people voting on this bill don't have the power to change what is happening on the federal level, but they can change whether or not Maine remains safe by choosing to not pass this bill, and I ask that you please do so, so that I can feel safe in my home state.

Thank you.