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LD 233

I am writing in opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704 and urge the committee to vote Ought Not To Pass on all amendments.

These bills seek to strip transgender Mainers of their fundamental rights, including the right to participate in sports, access appropriate facilities, and receive necessary healthcare. These actions create an environment of discrimination and exclusion, two principles that are in opposition to the core values at the heart of Maine.

These bills will cause significant harm to transgender youth, who already face disproportionately high rates of mental health struggles and suicide attempts. Denying them access to gender-affirming care and participation in activities aligned with their gender identity will only exacerbate these challenges.

Major medical associations, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, recognize gender-affirming care as medically necessary and evidence-based. These bills disregard established medical consensus and prioritize political agendas over the well-being of transgender individuals.

These bills are discriminatory and go against the Maine Human Rights Act. To remove the protection of gender identity from this act is a direct attack on the human rights of trans people. These bills do not only harm trans people but also harm the communities in which they live. Trans people are members of the greater Maine community and deserve to be treated as such.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to recognize the inherent dignity and rights of all transgender Mainers.

I strongly advocate for an "Ought Not To Pass" recommendation for these harmful and discriminatory bills.