

Rae Sage  
Waldoboro, ME  
5/8/2025

LD1337 and LD1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Rae Sage and I am here in my personal capacity to provide testimony in opposition to all bills heard today, with a special emphasis on LD1337 and 1432.

In the broadest context, the rules and laws we pass and enforce throughout this beautiful state, tell the story of who we want to feel safe and accepted here. They tell the stories of whose lives are valued, whose voices are heard, and who gets to exist freely as themselves in public spaces.

None of the bills offered today exist in a void-In a time when the democracy of our nation is being called into question- we must understand the mechanism of division as they snake their ways into our policies and personal lives. The targeting of marginalized identities be they, trans, immigrant, black, poor, or queer by any any means, is a mechanism used to advance authoritarian rule and disempower the people at large. History has shown us this time and time again. When we turn on eachother for our differences, we cannot use our collective power to fight the real threats looming on the horizon.

Colonization, White Supremacy, Patriarchy, Facism-All of these things depend on division, and rob us of the ability to both embrace our own humanity, and recognize the humanity of others.

Removing gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act is a regression that opens gender diverse people up to harassment and violence. Changing the language of the Maine Human Rights Act to not include protection from discrimination for people accessing Women's shelters puts all marginalized identities at risk of not being able to access the safety net services that save lives.

Opposition to these bills is about just that. Saving lives and protecting futures. Nothing less.

Thank you so much for your time.