

Diane McClanahan
Raymond
LD 233

My name is Diane McClanahan. I am a retired United Methodist minister, and I attend HopeGateWay community of faith in Portland, Maine. I am writing to express my opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704.

As a cisgender person, I do not fully understand what it means to be transgender. There's no way I could know what that experience is like. But as a person of faith, I do understand that transgender people are beloved children of God who deserve to have all the rights and privileges that cisgender people enjoy.

In considering the bills that are before you, it would be easy to think of the people who will be affected by your choices, simply as a category of people that you do not understand. But you do not have to understand them to do the right thing.

The young people these bills will affect are struggling, like any other young people you might know, to find their way, to figure out who they are, to fit in, and to offer their gifts and talents to the world. They deserve to be able to access as many opportunities as possible. This includes participating in sports that provide life lessons in belonging to a team that supports one another in reaching common goals.

The passage of the bills that lie before you will do nothing to address any of the real concerns that women and girls face in sports, or in rest rooms. Instead, it would target a small group of people to discrimination and harassment that will cause irreparable harm.

I urge you to vote no to these bills.

Thank you!