

Savanna Remis-Hagerthy
Auburn
LD 1704

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In opposition to:

LD 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432 (makes it legal to discriminate and harass trans people), 380

Hello

My name is Savanna Remis-Hagerthy or SAVVY FROM MAINE on TikTok. I am from Auburn, Maine district 90. Yes that district 90. Laurel does not represent all us. I am speaking in opposition to the following Legislative documents LD's 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432 and LD 380

You may recognize me from when I lobbied WITH Maine Christian Civic League. I was their poster child of why we SHOULDN'T ban Conversion Therapy. Today I am here as conversion therapy survivor and a nonbinary individual.

I am a survivor of 10 years of abuse in a Christian Nationalist Cult that put me through conversion therapy as an adult. They used my vulnerability from trauma in my life to manipulate me into believing that what they offered was the way to a better life. But all I ended up with was more trauma.

Growing up I always knew I didn't like being a girl but I also didn't want to be a boy. I didn't want to wear girl clothes and my parents didn't force me. On the playground and eventually on the playing field in several coed sports including in college at UMaine Farmington I strived to prove that I was stronger than the boys. And guess what... I was!

I grew up Baptist during the 1990s. I knew I was different, but because no one talked about being non-binary especially in the Baptist church, I didn't have a word to describe how I'd always felt inside.

When I joined the cult known as Staaron Ministries in Topsham... I was forced to believe that being who I am was demonic and the result of my parents failing to raise me correctly.

I ended up moving in with my pastors and as an adult I was treated like a child. My pastors went through my clothes including my bra drawer to take away any clothes that weren't feminine enough. They even made me go to their hairdresser daughter to make my hair more feminine.

I have since left the cult and am now married to drag king Danny B. Goode. But despite my personal growth, the damage caused by conversion therapy was significant enough that I still seek therapy, but this time from a real therapist.

Also I have to add that now that I am out I get harassed and I get called delusional for just being myself. I am threatened as a biological female for using the bathroom I was assigned at birth because I choose to wear masculine clothes, have short hair and have a naturally deeper voice.

Finally, I want you to keep in mind that these bills directly contradicts last year's bill LD 227 and 2019's bill LD 1025. Bills that protect trans youth from conversion therapy and allow them to seek gender affirming care.

Not all children have accepting safe parents. Some have parents like Laurel Libby... whose recent obsession with children's genitals is very concerning. It takes only one safe and accepting adult in a trans child's life to greatly reduce the risk of suicide. Often that adult is not the child's parents. These bills will be equal to another form of conversion therapy at the hands of the school system. If I as an adult am traumatized by my experiences in conversion therapy, how do you think that WILL affect children.

If you have any questions I am willing to answer.
Thank you for your time.

YouTube Link to full speech:

https://youtu.be/26Qer9ey_Ho?feature=shared

For more references on my testimony and my life please visit my TikTok:

Savvy From Maine:

https://www.tiktok.com/@savvy_from_maine?t=ZT-8w9qpUzQayI&_r=1