

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Testimony in opposition to

LD 1337: An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters
and

LD 1432: An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

19 May, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Kris Pitts and I am a resident of Lewiston; I am writing on behalf of myself, as an individual. I am voicing my strong and urgent opposition to LDs 1337 and 1432.

As an educator and social worker with a career spanning more than two decades in service to many of our most marginalized community members, including those experiencing gender-based violence, those in need of shelter, and the transgender community, I am failing to find words to describe the complete lack of good to be found in either of these bills. When I consider LDs 1337 and 1432, I am left with one question: Why?

Why would Maine intentionally stand on the wrong side of history and remove protections from its Human Rights Act at a time when state-level protections are more valuable than ever? Why would Maine create barriers to service provision in emergency shelters when we have already moved far beyond the precipice of crisis when it comes to the state's ability to meet the needs of those seeking services? When I consider the possible answers, I am left disheartened at best.

Let us call these bills what they really are: Thinly veiled attempts to further destabilize the safety of transgender Mainers in both aspects of daily life and in times of crisis. Creating conditions where transgender Mainers are left less safe and with fewer resources, social supports, and opportunities to participate fully in society will not erase the existence of a community which has always existed. Instead, it will erode trust in systems, cast doubt upon Maine's leadership, and pave the way for whoever is the next scapegoat. Because let me be clear, attacks on transgender Mainers are a test to see what rights can be eroded, and by using which arguments; this will not end here if we allow these bills, and others like them, to pass. And, if it can happen in Maine, where else is next? The slope isn't slippery, it's a sheer drop.

I strongly urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Kris Pitts, MPS, MSW