

Sydney Eileen Dykens

Pronouns She/Her/Hers

Age 19

Resident of Rome, Maine

8th May, 2025

**My Testimony 9:30 am**

*(LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704)*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Sydney Dykens. I live in Rome. I am a transgender woman and an undergraduate Jewish studies and history secondary education major.

I open by saying,

Trans women do not owe you passing, they do not owe you femininity, they do not owe you levels of politeness that you would not hold any other person to. They are allowed to be confident, they're allowed to be self assured, and above all, they should be treated the way any other woman is treated. Trans women deserve protection, acceptance, respect, and not being held to insane standards that no one else is held to because they all too often are.

We are not your "scapegoat", we are not your "wedge issue". We now more than ever must do our utmost to protect and affirm all trans people. By allowing this legislation proposed here today to proceed it will seek only to further alienate and ostracize trans people from our society and public way of life. We refuse to be cast as the "other".

We must realize that by protecting the existing legislation and enshrined protections surrounding trans people, if not expanding these further is what really protects women, all women (including trans women). And by casting these protections aside and seeking to discriminate against and **bully** us for simply wishing to be treated equally in our society, you hurt all of us.

I say all of this as a transgender woman and as a Jew, we know that these struggles are intersectional and we know where they end.

In closing I emphatically urge the committee to oppose this legislation, and to know that fear + trigger = a scapegoat. Along with a phrase of resistance in Yiddish “מיר וועלן זיי איבערלעבן” (meer veh-len say ee-ber-LEY-ben), or in English “we will outlive them”.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

DYKE ! (ns)

Sydney Eileen Dykens