



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Laurie Osher 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**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Laurie Osher. I have the privilege of representing House District 25, which is most of Orono. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to LDs 1337 and 1432, bills which seek to remove gender identity protections from the Maine Human Rights Act.

Maine has a long tradition of promoting equality and inclusion, and we continue to be a national leader when it comes to enacting policies that protect and affirm our LGBTQ+ communities. Maine voters and the representatives they elect have repeatedly chosen equality: in marriage, with protections from discrimination and violence, and in gender equality. I am so proud of this tradition, which is one of the many reasons I am so grateful to call this place my home.

The Maine Human Rights Act has included protections for all Mainers regardless of their gender identity for two decades, reflecting a longtime recognition that everyone who lives here deserves to lead lives free of fear or harm due to discrimination. Maine voters have affirmed this at the ballot box.

These bills would undermine our leadership on protecting equality by rolling back long-standing legal protections. This would leave Mainers more vulnerable to discrimination in the future than they have been for the past 20 years.

Passing these bills would be an assault on these protections and a violation of Maine's state slogan – "The Way Life Should Be".

Please oppose LDs 1337 and 1432. Thank you for your consideration.