

May 8, 2025

Judiciary Committee Hearing

Testimony in opposition to LD233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432, LD 1704, and LD 380

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

My name is Karen Heck, I live in Waterville, and my goal is to use my three minutes to save you 20 minutes by testifying against LD233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432, LD 1704, and LD 380, rather than to speak to each individually.

Every student should have the freedom to be themselves, to be safe, and to feel respected at school, to receive the healthcare they need, and schools should not be penalized for making sure those things happen. Changes in current Maine law are unnecessary and not helpful to anyone.

To paraphrase the well-known words of Reverend Martin Niemöller, first they came for the immigrants, then they came for people who were transgender, then they came for people whose skin color did not match their own, then they came for the weak and the poor, then they came for those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, and two spirit, then they came for the women, and while I still can, I am speaking up because of what I learned in Sunday School when I was young.

We should treat each other as we want to be treated.

I've no doubt I'm on a list somewhere and I don't want to be taken without having spoken out against the cruel policies being promulgated in my country today.

I urge you to vote in opposition to all of these bills and to keep Maine kind.

Thank you.