

Rev. Loren McGrail

Belfast, Maine

May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for this opportunity to address this Committee. My name is Rev. Loren McGrail. I'm a resident of Belfast, and I am here on behalf of First Church in Belfast, United Church of Christ which has been an Open and Affirming congregation for over 15 years. We proudly proclaim Justice for All on our rainbow banner letting all know they are welcome.

We have come here today to stand with our LGBTQ Plus siblings, parents, grandparents, and community members against this latest attack on their rights through punitive legislation.

Our Christian faith tells us that Jesus accepts us for who we are and that we are all made in God's image. This bill, LD1002, if passed will directly affect members of my church and their families who are already reporting increased bullying and acts of intimidation. I ask that each of you voting to consult your conscience and cast a vote that reflects the simple but poignant truth that all children deserve to be treated with dignity and have rights to protection and safety. We pray you stand up and protect all of our kids by voting No.

Thank you,

Rev. Loren McGrail

Interim Minister First Church in Belfast