

Committee on the Judiciary

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

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. I am Caroline FreeSpirit, a resident of Standish, Maine. I am here as a citizen and resident of Maine. I am here to testify in opposition to this bill.

The basic argument that supports allowing discrimination based on gender identity, indeed the foundation of all these arguments being presented today, is very straightforward, and pretends to be based in science and common sense. In essence, the argument is that there are only two sexes, two genders, male and female, XY and XX chromosomes, and anyone who says otherwise is wrong.

This is the foundation of all these bills that will try to **impose an orthodoxy on our thoughts and behavior**. Any structure based on this foundation is fragile and will fall. I propose to show how it is flawed and inaccurate. I do not even need to mention trans gender individuals to prove the premise is incorrect.

The documented science of the makeup of sex and gender is that 1.7% of the human population is, in fact, Intersex per Blackless et al. (2000). This means they have mixed presentations of external genitalia and internal chromosomal makeup. The argument that there are only two sexes, only two genders, male and female, only XY and XX chromosomes is wrong. I am not even addressing transgender individuals when I make this assertion. There are men with XX genes, and women with XY genes, and people with mixed presentations. The proportion of intersex individuals is not insignificant. 1.7% is roughly the same as the proportion of redheads in the global human population (2%). That is approximately 23,800 Mainers we are talking about, and we are not even talking about transgender individuals here.

I am asking that you do not build a structure of discrimination based on this flimsy premise. This lie that there are only two sexes is also used to support all the transgender phobic nonsense that we are witnessing today. Please vote against this bill.

Thank you for listening to my testimony today.

REFERENCES

- Blackless, M., Charuvastra, A., Derryck, A., Fausto-Sterling, A., Lauzanne, K., & Lee, E. (2000). How sexually dimorphic are we? Review and synthesis. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 12(2), 151.
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