

Judy Williams

Belfast, ME

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

I am here a member of The First Church in Belfast, UCC, here today in opposition to LD 1432. At a time when transgender individuals are facing harassment at school and by members of this legislature, LD 1432 would strip them of rights previously enjoyed under the Maine Human Rights Act. What message does this send to trans kids like the 13-year-old son of friends of my daughter, who attempted suicide because of a perceived lack of acceptance for him as he transitioned from female to male?

According to the Trevor Project, 42% of transgender individuals in Maine considered suicide in 2023, with 18% of them actually attempting it. As the report notes, "LGBTQ+ young people are not inherently prone to higher suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Rather, they are placed at higher risk because of how they are mistreated and stigmatized in society."

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2024-50-State-Report-Maine.pdf>

I urge you to consider seriously what impact the removal of human rights protections will have on this vulnerable population. My daughter's young friend survived his suicide attempt, at a time when he was afforded protective rights. It is not hyperbole to suggest that if he had also been faced with the impact of his state legislators deciding he was not worthy of the human rights protections we all enjoy, this might have been the determining factor between life and death for him.

Do not leave people like this young man unprotected. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on this bill. Thank you.