

Kassady Colette Webb

Age 21

Resident of Rome, Maine

8th May, 2025

My Testimony 1:00 pm

(LD 1337, LD 1432)

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee my name is Kassady Webb, I live in Rome, and I am a lifelong transgender resident of the second congressional district.

I speak before you today in opposition to the proposed legislation. I also stand before you today as a transgender human being whose human rights should not be up for debate. That is fundamentally what this meeting is about.

As a trans woman, it is hard enough already for myself and members of my community to use women's spaces under hard-won protections currently in place due to several factors. For the longest time, especially at the beginning of my transition, I found it very difficult to access any public space. I would purposely dehydrate myself and avoid public restrooms entirely regardless of gender out of fear and self-doubt. I spent a significant amount of my life avoiding going out in public to avoid the discomfort I faced due to my inability to properly access women's spaces. However, as I grew in my transition, coming to find confidence in myself and support from my friends and the wider community, the current policies protecting my rights as a transgender person and as a woman helped allow me to overcome this fear and self-doubt. Being able to freely participate in society without fear of discrimination and ostracization and with the

ability to access spaces meant to keep femme-presenting people like me safe fundamentally allows me and my fellow members of the trans community to participate in society in a way that we no longer will be if these bills are passed.

There has been no substantial evidence to suggest that trans people pose any threat to our society or are unworthy of protection from discrimination. By removing our protected status you are not "protecting women" but instead forcing transgender women (who, yes, are women) into unsafe situations and opening up all trans people to potential discrimination and violence. Protecting our rights as they exist currently furthers the safety of all women. Doing otherwise only seeks to not only make the lives and participation of transgender people in our society and public life at large more unsafe, but it would also arguably embolden those who seek to hurt women. By policing these spaces and our rights all it does is cast us as trans people aside in favor of a hypothetical what-if fantasy scenario, full stop. If you seek to actually protect women, protect and uplift all of us, make all of our lives safer and more livable beyond these spaces, and in the words of Sinead O'Connor "fight the real enemy".

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KADW' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kassady Webb