



LEGAL ADVOCATES  
& DEFENDERS

GLBTQ LEGAL ADVOCATES & DEFENDERS

Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business  
Testimony of Maine Transgender Network and GLBTQ Legal Advocates &  
Defenders

**LD 675: An Act to Improve the Convenience of Public Restrooms**

April 18, 2023

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and honorable members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business: My name is Quinn Gormley, I use she/her pronouns, and I am here today in my capacity as Executive Director of the Maine Transgender Network. MaineTransNet is joined by GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders in our support of LD 675: An Act to Improve the Convenience of Public Restrooms.

This bill would require restroom facilities to include more spaces for women and to designate at least 10% for “any gender occupancy” for “newly constructed public venue[s]” or for such venues “undergoing major renovation.” This change is prospective only and applies only for “public venues” (to be defined by the Plumbers Examine Board) with a capacity over 100 persons.

This change will assist any one who needs a restroom that is not denominated as male or female, such as parents traveling with kids and people with disabilities who require the assistance of direct support professionals who may not be of the same gender. It will also assist transgender individuals for whom using these facilities is too often an anxiety inducing experience. Despite protections under the Maine Human Rights Act, transgender and gender non-conforming people experience frequent discrimination in public restrooms. Our right to use these spaces is too often questioned or denied, and among transgender women in particular, these experiences can involve physical and sexual violence.

For nonbinary people, the choice of which restroom to use in public is often vexing because they do not identify as exclusively male or female. Despite our progress towards legal and cultural recognition of nonbinary people here in Maine, this

recognition rarely extends to the built environment where binary choices in bathrooms and changing rooms are often all that is available.

This bill will not fix all the challenges with public restrooms, but it will ensure that future construction at larger venues is done in a way that ensures fairness with respect to both personal and family needs and identity. The inclusion of all gender restrooms within these facilities will benefit more than just trans and nonbinary people looking for safe and affirming places to pee. **Simply put, all gender restrooms make our public spaces more inclusive and accessible.**

We urge you to support LD 675, and vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you,

Quinn Gormley  
Executive Director  
MaineTransNet  
GLAD