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Respectfully, I urge this legislature to reject legislation that restricts the rights to bodily autonomy and self determined identity. I have been proud that our governor has stood up to the federal attempts to bully, threaten, and extort Maine and its citizens for holding firm in the assertion that all of our citizens deserve civil rights protections because any specific subset of the population that has their rights removed is inherently and vehemently anti-democratic and puts the rights of all in danger. I vigorously oppose the removal of equal protections under the law for ANY Mainer, but especially in this instance where a minority population of children are being cynically targeted, politized, and used as pawns in a culture war designed specially to distract from the real work of taking care of the Maine people-- ALL of them-- regardless of personal identity factors. Let me be clear, this is not about protecting children; messaging to children that they do not and should not exist truly has a negative impact. The harm that would result from this is completely unacceptable and avoidable, because this is actually about stifling identity exploration/expression and normative human growth to what fits into the narrow minds of a small but unfortunately vocal minority who masquerade the erosions of freedom and sewing of bigotry under the guise of an outraged defense that is in no way shape or form needed. Please protect all Maine's children and reject this transphobic attempt to further erode civil liberties in this country. Thank you for your consideration.