

Lesley Andersen
Saco
LD 1432

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Lesley Andersen, I'm a resident of Saco, and I am here today as a Mainer and educator.

I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

LD 1432 would strike 'gender identity' from the Maine Human Rights Act. Removing those words does not remove the people they describe—it only removes their protection. As a woman, I would not stand for the erasure of sex-based protections; we cannot stand for the erasure of protections for trans Mainers either. As a teacher, I know that inclusive laws save lives. This bill would take us backward.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you