



**May 8th, 2025**

## **Testimony in Opposition to LD 1337 and 1432**

**Hello Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary committee.**

**My name is Aluel Athian, and I'm a college student in Waterville, Maine. I'm also a Legislative Fellow at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led movement fighting for human dignity and a livable future for all of Maine.**

**I oppose bills LD 1432 and LD 1337 which aim to legally dehumanize and disenfranchise queer and trans people, which subsequently harms us all. LD 1432 aims to remove consideration of Gender identity based on the flawed argument that Gender identity is actually based on sex or sexual orientation. This is an attempt to invalidate non-binary, trans, and intersex people by forcing a gender binary.**

**Gender is socially constructed based on cultural practices which are different throughout the world. These bills aim to force conformity and assimilation. Stop trying to infringe on others' rights and lives. You don't own anyone and cannot control their self-expression. A cis person may identify as man or woman but may not meet someone else's gender standards based on their hair length or location, skin color, height, voice, or clothes. The reality is people are judged based on how they identify or appear to identify.**

**LD 1432 would lay the groundwork for legally protected transphobia and gender discrimination with no legal recourse for victims of this bigotry in the workplace or otherwise. This discrimination has happened to many cis women in The United States. Recently Two Cis Women were Kicked Out of a Boston Hotel Bathroom After One Was Ordered to "Prove" their Sex. Cis people can also be victimized by transphobia but more importantly Trans kids and adults are dehumanized by society for who they are. Trans people are less than 1% of the global population but are scapegoated for the crimes and perversions of cis straight men.**

**LD 1337 also promotes gender discrimination or "trans-vestigation" in women shelters. This disenfranchises trans women who already experience higher levels of homelessness and violence due to socially accepted bigotry. LD 1337 would also harm all women because it would exempt privately owned shelters from providing emergency service to women following anti-discrimination requirements. Public or private sphere human rights and dignity should be respected with no exceptions.**

**I urge you to vote: ought not to pass on LD 1337, 1432, and all of these anti-trans bills.**

**Thank You, Aluel Athian**