

Gray Baldwin
Damariscotta
LD 1432

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Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Maine Judiciary Committee, my name is Gray Baldwin. I live in Damariscotta, Maine. I am a therapist of over 30 years of experience as well as a researcher.

I am here to testify against LD 1432 An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act - Rep. Mike Soboleski of Phillips. Before you decide to enact discrimination into the Maine legislation, I want to tell you a true story from the not-so-distant past.

In WW2, the Germans invaded Denmark. The leadership in Denmark received advanced warning that the Nazi's were going to ask the Danish government to round up all Jews to be deported to concentration camps. Do you know what the Danish people did? They protected this vulnerable population from having their human rights from being stripped from them. They protected the Jews of Denmark from being sent to camps. Nearly the entire population banded together to protect their friends and neighbors and shuttle them to safety in Sweden. The Danish people believed in democracy, that all people were Danes before they were Christians or Jews. They believed that because they were all citizens of Denmark, it was everyone's responsibility to protect the people who were being threatened by the Nazis. This remarkable effort happened quietly, quickly, and seamlessly. They stood up for their fellow Danes.

We take great pride in being Mainers. We talk about how great this state is and the unity we have. We also pride ourselves on your early revolutionary war efforts for freedom and democracy. We are proud of our democratic state government. And we pride ourselves on helping out friends and neighbors in need. You have an opportunity now to stand up for your fellow Mainers who are being threatened like the people of Denmark stood up for their fellow Danes who were being threatened. You can choose to stand united against this anti-trans rhetoric that is not based in any reality or science, stand with your fellow Mainers, stand up and protect trans and nonbinary Mainers. You have the opportunity to say no, we don't abandon our friend, family, or neighbors in Maine. We stand together against the storms, share our heat, share our food, and stand up for everyone's human rights. Don't fall for this hateful rhetoric. Protect your fellow Mainers and do not support this bill.
Thank you.