

Kevin Beling
South Portland
LD 1432

Transgender individuals are being used as political cannon fodder through some of the other bills in consideration- as well as all over outlets of the culture war landscape in both traditional and digital media. While I support good faith debates on how to preserve women's rights, I do not find removing transgender individuals as a protected class to be in good faith. Transgender citizens already have a giant target on their back and the data doesn't lie. They are many more times more likely to be victims of violence and discrimination than cisgender citizens. The fact that biology is confusing and nuanced should not justify in any way the social reality of rampant discrimination against trans individuals. Maine has been a leader in human rights issues for decades and we should stand our ground here. Trans rights are human rights.