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LD 1432

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

Thank you for the opportunity to engage with the Committee.

My name is Lyn Bell; I'm a resident of Norway. I have spent my life in community service, first as a Marine, a deputy sheriff, and in my retirement, a teacher and elected official in Oxford County. I am also the parent of a transgender child.

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

This bill serves no good purpose for Mainers, and will ultimately be used to discriminate against those outside of Cisgender, heteronormative identities. This bill's singular purpose will be to create complications in the lives of the estimated 1.4 percent of Mainers identifying as transgender and non-binary, and 1.6 - 2 percent who are intersexed.

Why are we wasting time on measures to discriminate against a minority group when our schools are struggling to pay their staff, students go hungry when they are out of school, and drugs are burdening our rural communities?

This vulnerable group does not deserve this contemptuous attack.

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.