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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.

During my law enforcement career, I worked exclusively in a Domestic Violence Task Force, during which time I earned a Medal of Valor, and was nominated as the Baltimore Sun Police Officer of the Year, and I am appalled at the lack of humanity in the author and supporters of this bill. They should be ashamed.

Women in crisis deserve safe harbors, and I include transwomen, who are one of the most assaulted minority groups in our society.

If there was serious concern for the safety of women in crisis, the lawmakers would do more to prevent their abuse, rehabilitate the offenders, protect the victims, and provide adequate services to all parties involved. Instead of doing that, they try to limit who can seek shelter.

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.