

Marisa Bickford  
Portland, Maine  
May 8, 2025

RE: LD1432

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

My name is Marisa Bickford and I am a resident of Portland, Maine.  
I am in strong opposition of LD1432.

I am in a loving marriage with a kind and generous transman. I'm cis-gender, but I am a woman so I know a little bit about fighting for the right to exist and to be taken seriously. The current federal administration has stripped many of my husband's rights as a human being already. This is not only heartbreaking- it's terrifying. Now the state wants to follow suit? Even if we were wanting to relocate somewhere else we can't. The federal government already denied him access to a passport. So you're stuck with us. Us along with a sea of others.

The erasure of the consideration of gender identity is a calculated attempt of erasing transpeople as a whole. Transpeople have always existed and will continue to regardless of the outcome of this bill. If this passes it will only remove protections for human beings that are already discriminated against in day to day life.

Where will it end? It sets a dangerous precedent. One where lawmakers and lobbyists can decide when to stop seeing human beings as being worthy of protection. Worthy of existence. It will be women, it will be people of color, it will be those not of the Christian faith, it will be disabled people, and it will be the most vulnerable that will be affected. The fact of the matter is they already are affected- which is why it is written into law in the first place.

Retracting human rights on the basis of gender identity? That's what we're prioritizing? We could be discussing the lacking infrastructure or better public health services. The people of this state already can't afford housing or struggle to find employment and now you propose to take away the protections to make it more accessible for those facing discrimination already.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a tiny bit of my perspective and I urge and implore you to vote Ought Not To Pass.