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LD 1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this matter. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1432.

A fundamental concept of good governance is that for any bill to pass or new law to be made, it must demonstrate a clear need or a benefit to society. While gender identity may be considered as falling under the umbrella of sex and/or sexual orientation, which would remain present in the MHRA, it is important to note that CLEAR and COHERENT law is always preferred over the obtuse or difficult to interpret, and the inclusion of gender identity in the MHRA makes its protection unambiguous, leaving no grounds whatsoever for attempting to circumvent it. Removal of the term "gender identity" from the MHRA would serve only to obfuscate protections for trans individuals under the law, providing the opportunity for the use of this ambiguity as a barrier against enforcement, directly attacking the will and means of wronged individuals to seek justice. Legal proceedings of any kind whatsoever are a tremendous burden for all those participating, and by making protections less clear, it introduces uncertainty of legitimacy for those seeking protection under the law, thereby reducing the effectiveness of those rights protected and putting persons in that category soundly at increased risk. As there is ONLY the potential for harm of a disaffected minority by the removal of this term from the MHRA, it is a baseless proposal and must be squarely struck down.