

Zoey Bridges  
Bangor  
LD 1432

My name is Zoey Bridges. I'm a Mainer, and a proud transgender woman. I'm here today to urge you to vote against LD 1432, which would remove gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act.

This bill sends a dangerous message: that trans people in Maine are no longer worthy of equal protection under the law; That we can be denied jobs, housing, or medical care simply for being who we are; And that our safety and dignity are up for political debate.

I've lived the reality of being trans in a world that often doesn't understand us. We already face higher rates of discrimination, violence, homelessness, and suicide. Removing these protections would not erase our identities, it would only increase our vulnerability.

What this bill proposes is not neutrality—it is cruelty disguised as policy. The Human Rights Act exists to protect those who are most at risk of being treated unfairly. Removing gender identity from its scope is a deliberate act of exclusion that betrays the values of equality, fairness, and compassion that Mainers hold dear.

This is not just about me—it's about every young trans person growing up in this state who deserves to know they belong. It's about every family trying to raise a transgender child with hope and safety. It's about ensuring that all Mainers can live without fear of being treated as less than human.

I love Maine. This is my home. I am your neighbor, your coworker, and your community member. Like everyone else here, I deserve to be protected under the law.

Please, do not take this protection away. Vote no on LD 1432.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to our state.