

Franklin Brooks, MSW, Ph.D., LCSW

122 Neal St.

Portland, ME 04102

May 2, 2025

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

My name is Franklin Brooks, and I live in Portland.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opposition to the bills LD23, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. These bills would bring back discriminatory medical and behavioral health practices through legislation that attempts to control, limit, and restrict access to equitable treatment for transgender students and youth in our society. In addition, LD 1432 would repeal protections based on gender identity in the Maine Human Rights Act.

I am a retired Assistant Clinical Professor who taught at the University of New England School of Social Work. I also had a clinical social work practice in which I worked with many transgender youths, their families as well as transgender adults. In addition, I chaired the Maine Chapter National Association of social Worker's Committee on LGBTQ Issues (now the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee)

In my clinical practice, many of my transgender clients struggled with being discriminated against, being victims of verbal and physical violence as well as facing many barriers in getting their healthcare needs met. Maine has been a leader in passing legislation that protects transgender individuals from discrimination and hate violence and enhancing protections for transgender youth and adults within the education and healthcare systems here in Maine.

The bills before you are attempts to roll back the hard-won gains to ensure that all Maine people are treated equally under the law.

I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on all these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this legislation,

Sincerely,

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