

Anna Brown
Freeport
LD 1337

Testimony Opposing LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380

May 7, 2025

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Anna Brown and I live in Freeport. I am the mother of two children who attend public schools. I am strongly opposed to the slate of anti-trans bills under discussion: LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380.

Each of these bills takes direct aim at transgender people in Maine. If passed, they would roll back rights, restrict access to life-saving care, and weaken the legal protections that ensure trans people can live with safety and dignity.

LD 1337 seeks to carve out exceptions to the Maine Human Rights Act, allowing privately owned women's shelters to exclude transgender women from emergency housing. Trans women—especially those who are homeless—face incredibly high rates of violence. Denying them access to safe shelter isn't just discriminatory, it's dangerous. We cannot claim to care about women's safety while making some women more vulnerable based on who they are.

LD 1432 goes even further. It would remove "gender identity" as a protected class from the Maine Human Rights Act. This is a sweeping and regressive move. For over a decade, Maine has affirmed that transgender people deserve the same protections as everyone else. To erase gender identity from this law is to say trans Mainers no longer deserve protection from discrimination in housing, education, employment, and public accommodations. That is wrong, and it is deeply out of step with our state's values of fairness and inclusion.

LD 380 targets young people—specifically minors seeking gender-affirming care. Gender-affirming hormone therapy for 16- and 17-year-olds is already a carefully considered medical decision, often involving doctors, therapists, and in many cases, parents. This bill would create unnecessary legal barriers that block access to care proven to reduce depression, anxiety, and suicide risk in trans youth. These decisions should be made by families and healthcare providers—not by the state legislature.

Transgender Mainers are our neighbors, our classmates, our coworkers, and our loved ones. They deserve the same rights, the same dignity, and the same access to care as anyone else. These bills don't protect anyone—they put real people in harm's way.

I urge you to vote no on LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. Please stand on the side of compassion, fairness, and the basic rights of all Mainers.

Thank you.