

Lindsay Burchette  
Bath, Maine  
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Lindsay Burchette, I am a resident of Bath, Maine, and I am writing in opposition of ME LD1432 as well as the other anti-trans bills coming before the Committee today.

In the spring of 2023, living in a deep red state, my family received a jarring letter stating that my transgender child would no longer be able to receive care from their doctors. A new law was passing in the next few months that not only threatened their safety in receiving care relating to being transgender, but their safety as a child receiving ANY care. Our family made the decision to uproot our lives and move somewhere safer. My husband, a Navy veteran and a man deeply dedicated to his family, set out to determine where our odds were best for our children to have the safest, most promising future. This extensive research of state laws, quality of life, and other factors led us here, to Maine. Our first summer here, our child relaxed immeasurably- we all did. It was a vast change from “back home” where safety was a concern at nearly every turn. Every new educator, new doctor, new social experience was fraught with anxiety. We never knew when our state government would turn against our family, and the over all air was hostile. Today, my child is no longer concerned with living in stealth, and they are able to simply be a kid, like any other in most ways. This is a gift that the laws and general Maine attitude of “living and letting live” has given us.

In light of all of this, reading these bills has been disheartening. To think about giving up so much and coming so far to a place of safety, a place where my child’s identity is protected under law, under the Maine Human Rights Act- to imagine that we may pass bills that not only cause direct harm, but add to the momentum of hateful rhetoric, it truly goes against all the reasons we chose to plant roots here. We may not have been here long, but this is not the Maine we have come to know. Trans people are people, trans children are children. We are not asking for special treatment, rather the opposite- the freedom to live just as everyone else does. While I previously called this a gift, and we are grateful to be here, the truth is that it is a right- a right that should continue to be protected by law.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on LD1432, along with the other anti-trans bills proposed here today.