

Janice M. Cardoza

38 Tucker Street

Norway, ME

May 7, 2025

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

As a woman of faith, I am a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in the worth and dignity of all people. I am opposed to several bills coming before you on Thursday May 8, 2025. They are LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1137, LD 1432 and LD 380. As a retired medical professional, I feel these bills would leave all girls vulnerable to scrutiny, harassment and bullying. Mainers do not tolerate bullying which is why our state laws protect us against gender biased harassment.

Our educational institutions should be safe environments for all students to learn without fear of harassment. If these bills pass, they will not only hurt our schools but our communities as well. *Every* student should have the freedom to be themselves, to be safe, and to feel respected at school.

In both my personal and professional life, I have seen examples of women and girls who were bullied and have attempted and/or succeeded in suicide. I hope that you will consider my testimony and those of others who oppose these discriminatory bills. Being transgender, it is just one of the many parts that make up a human being just as the color of your hair or eyes or ethnic DNA or shoe size or ability to hear or sing etc.

Again, I urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on these bills.

Thank you,
Janice M. Cardoza