

In opposition to LD 233, LD 380, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432, & LD 1704

Paul Caruso

May 8th, 2025

Testimony

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Paul Caruso. I have been a proud and out gay man for many years and am writing for myself. I am writing to testify against LD 233, LD 380, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 1704.

As a gay man, I know that these bills hurt all of my trans siblings. I want to live in a world where we don't have to pass such inflammatory policy, hyper-focused on biological sex. I, as a state employee, don't need to hyper-focus on these things to connect with other people nor provide them the services they need to live. I am against these bills and against structuring state policy against trans rights as human rights.

I think passing these bills degrades human rights by creating hateful and toxic environments in schools, as well as fails to continue to protect human rights everywhere in Maine. According to a report titled *Homelessness and Housing Instability Among LGBTQ Youth*, created by the Trevor Project in February 2022, "overall, 28% of LGBTQ youth reported experiencing homelessness or housing instability at some point in their lives." These bills will worsen environments for trans youth, deny them of protection against employment discrimination as they age, and will fail to protect them when they find themselves unable to secure stable housing.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." Maine must continue to uphold human rights despite national pressure to the contrary. We must not fail to protect trans lives. Please do not support these bills.

Thank you,
Paul Caruso