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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Benjamin Cates and I am a resident of Portland. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As a former social worker for homeless and unhoused youth (and a trans person myself), I saw firsthand the barriers that trans women (and trans people more generally) faced in trying to access shelter. Legalizing discrimination for privately-owned shelters categorically does not make any women safer. We should be supporting people who live in shelters, not making life harder for them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!