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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 Michaela Cavallaro. I live in Portland, and I'm a parent and concerned citizen. I'm testifying in opposition to the bills being considered today.

Twenty years ago, the Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identify. The bills under consideration today violate both state and federal guarantees of equal protection. They are driven by a national political agenda that has very little to do with Maine people, and we must resist them.

What's more, enacting these bills does nothing to protect the women and girls their sponsors purport to care about so much. They're based on the faulty premise that transgender and nonbinary people are harmful predators. In fact, the trans and nonbinary people I know are not looking for special accommodation. They deserve—and, by state law, already have—the same rights as the rest of us, to use the locker rooms and bathrooms where they feel safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on these bills.