

Charles Cohen
Monmouth
LD 1432

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Charles Cohen and I am a resident of Monmouth, Maine. I am testifying in opposition to L.D. 1432 which would remove gender identity from protection under the Maine Human Rights Act. We are living in a divisive time in our country where so many of our citizens have an us vs. them mentality. Nowhere can this be seen more than in how members of the trans community have been targeted for hate and derision. I see L.D. 1432, as well as all of the other bills being considered by the Committee today, to be part of this national wave of hate. In Maine, we have a tradition of judging people by who they are as people and not what they are. In my personal life, I have tried to live by this credo and strongly believe that it is an essential part of what makes Maine the great state that it is. All our citizens should be able to live a life that is free from discrimination and harassment regardless of their sexual preference or identity. I, therefore, urge you to defeat L.D. 1432, as well as those companion bills you are considering today, which would strip those protections from our trans citizens. Thank you for consideration of these comments.
Sincerely, Charles Cohen