

James Cook  
Camden  
LD 233

Testimony regarding bills LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704  
Collected May 3, 2025 in Chapman Park, Rockland Maine  
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The following is transcribed testimony of 14 residents of the state of Maine who are also members of The Audacity, a local grassroots group of individuals committed to taking nonviolent creative action together to respond to the wave of authoritarianism, bigotry, and corruption currently inundating the nation. We have no budget and operate entirely based on the contributions of our members.

The following testimony was taken in Chapman Park in Rockland, Maine on May 3, 2025, regarding efforts to penalize transgender people in Maine through bills LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. The Audacity is submitting this record of testimony to the Maine State Legislature for the first morning hearing in Augusta at the Maine State House on May 8, 2025 regarding these bills. Some people submitting testimony also refer to LD 380, LD 1337 and LD 1432, bills that similarly stigmatize transgender people and that are being considered in subsequent hearings on May 8, 2025.

For questions regarding this testimony or documentation of the explicit consent provided by the people named below to have their testimony transcribed and submitted for the legislative record, please contact James Cook of Camden, founder and facilitator of The Audacity, at [jamescook@audacitycat.com](mailto:jamescook@audacitycat.com).

Testimony of Ralph Moore of Rockland

I'm Ralph Moore, and I live in Rockland Maine. I oppose the bills LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. I have over 60 years of ministry as an Episcopal priest. I have members of my own family who are transitional or gay or lesbian members of my family. I've worked in many ministries sometimes on college campuses, and I find this type of legislation is counterproductive. These people are our neighbors, our children and they need to be honored in their full humanity. The bills all commodify them as a certain label which is being attacked. Thank you.

Testimony of Penny Dunning of Rockport

I'm Penny Dunning, I live in Rockport Maine, and the bills that I oppose strongly are LDs 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432, and 380. I'm opposed to all of those. I believe that these bans are harmful to all women and girls in Maine and in the country they call for invasive and traumatizing gender checks such that a girl such as my niece, who is 6' 11" because of her tall father, might be considered too tall and have that invasive process imposed upon her. Also we know bullying occurs enough in schools, and you know we haven't taken care of bullying, but this also emboldens persons to bully yet even more and to harass girls, all girls, by accusing them of being trans. Also in the attempts to enforce these bans should it come to that, it violates the privacy of every girl, every woman in Maine whatever color they are.

It also is disempowering of schools. Schools and teachers are a very important source support for students who may not have that support elsewhere, and that makes schools and teachers ever more important, and they need to maintain the trust of all in the school: faculty, administration, students, parents and the like.

I have several relatives of color. I have two AfroAmerican nieces. I have three grandchildren who are of Latino and Asian origin, and I just find that people of color are impacted even more with bigotry, bullying, and the like.

Also, I wasn't the greatest sports person in school but I took sports and I look back now and realize was one of the most important things that means to me in all the work I've done. I'm 82, and all the work I've done has been teamwork, and I learned that in after-school sports. Also, I was on the JV all the time (my best friend was on the

varsity), but my perseverance, my sense of self-confidence even if I wasn't on the varsity, I mean willingness to keep trying and engage in the fullness of the community of the JV team as well as the varsity team. For that reason I think sports should be available and encouraged as after-school activities for every child in school. They learn lessons; whether they know geography or whatever is taught, they learn lessons that will hold them in good stead whatever work they do, whatever family they raise, whatever community they live in. Those values are imparted by participating in sports.

#### Testimony of Sydney Hall of Camden

I am Sydney Hall, and I live in Camden Maine. I'm addressing bills that are coming up, LD233, LD 866, LD1002, LD1134 and LD1704, all of which refer to children in school whose gender identity is different. I don't think that has anything to do with what schools provide for them, where they go in a school or what participate in. That's my belief. Thank you.

#### Testimony of Erin Darnell of Rockland

My name is Erin Darnell from Rockland, Maine. I am against LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. Trans rights are rights. They are equal rights, and everybody deserves them.

#### Testimony of Simone Masse of Rockland

I'm Simone Masse and I live in Rockland Maine. I'm here to speak against LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. These bills are against human rights and they are not gender affirming. We should be very cautious about doing anything like this and we should be helping all people no matter what their issues are.

#### Testimony of Stephanie Mindykowski of Rockland

My name is Stephanie Mindykowski of Rockland. I oppose the following: LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. I oppose these because trans people, like I said, trans people are people. Because like I said they just live like any other normal human being, yet other others are trying to demonize us one way or the other. But, like I said, we are just trying to fit into society. We have nothing bad, just good vibes. That's why I oppose these bills.

#### Testimony of Bridget Buck of Rockland

My name is Bridget Buck. I'm from Rockland Maine and I'm here to oppose the following: LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. And I'm here because these are our children. These are our neighbors. These are our friends. I have a niece, a nephew, a brother, and a young eight-year-old all working through their sexuality and gender identity, and this is my family. How dare anyone oppose them and take away their rights. Thank you.

#### Testimony of Judith Soleil of Rockland

I am Judith Soleil and I live in Rockland. I am wanting to talk about several upcoming bills: LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. I think they're all terribly discriminatory, and I also think this is a bit of a tempest in a teapot. It doesn't involve a lot of people, which is beside the point because anyone who wants to be exploring their sexuality and making decisions about their gender should be allowed to do so.

#### Testimony of Nancy Davis of Owls Head

My name is Nancy Davis. I live in Owls Head. I am addressing LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD1134 and LD1704. I read them all this morning before I came here and I am appalled that our government is even thinking about this these ridiculous issues. I have two very, very sweet transgender friends. I've known other many others: a young person who was a dear friend of my young son finally transitioned and became the person she always wanted to be. She's beautiful. She's contributing to society There's no reason in hell why any of these poor lovely people need to be punished by ridiculous bills like this. That's really all I have to say.

#### Testimony of Joanie Kessler Betterley of Friendship

I'm Joanie Kesler Betterly. I'm from Friendship. The bills that I am giving testimony to are LDs 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432 and 380. My position is that I am against all of them and my feeling is that people should be able to live the life that they are most comfortable in. It's nobody's business at all to get involved with the way they want to run their life. I think it's just appalling, and I'm against it. Thank you.

Testimony of Lila M. Percy of Rockland

My name is Lila May Percy, I live in Rockland and I am against bills LD 233 LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1437, and LD 380. I feel like we should protect kids and not limit them to an expression they were born, with not how they feel.

Testimony of Hope Percy of Rockland

I'm Hope Percy from Rockland. I am against LD 233. I am against LD 868. I am against LD 1002. I am against LD 1134. I am against LD 1704. I am against LD 1337. I am against LD 1432. And I am against LD 380.

Testimony of Kathy Onofrio of Rockland

My name is Kathy Onofrio, I live in Rockland Maine, and I am against LDs 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432, and 380. These are a mixture of transgender issues, health care issues, and gender-affirming care for youth. I think it's really important that people educate themselves on what exactly transgender means and what it is Um I think it's a non-issue that people are going to participate in sports no matter what And we really ought to be championing their efforts regardless of their gender It doesn't really matter They should be just having a good time at school So that's my thought about that And certainly health care should be available for everyone

Testimony of Benjamin Fahy of Thomaston

My name is Benjamin Fahy, I'm from Thomaston Maine, and I'm against these bills: LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. These are all bills that would harm not only all of us but especially trans people and people who have been pushed aside in our society and who don't have a lot of resources to defend themselves. So let's stand up for them. That's my testimony.