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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 Cara DameBrusie. I'm a resident of Buxton, and I am a member of HopeGateWay Church in Portland, ME and the United Methodist faith tradition. I am writing this letter in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I am a teacher. It deeply saddens and scares me that some of my students will be impacted very negatively if the anti-trans bills before this committee pass. My students are amazing individuals who deserve love and respect and these bills would deny them of both of those. Love and respect are values that we pride ourselves in sharing in this great state and to think those would be taken away is greatly disturbing. As a teacher I know what mental health challenges our students and especially our girls are facing today. These bills would only serve to exacerbate those challenges and very potentially add new ones. Schools should be places of support. They should not be places that make it ok to bully others because they are misunderstood for being themselves.

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!

Sincerely,

**Cara DameBrusie**