

Ann Dodd-Collins  
Portland  
LD 1337

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee,  
My name is Ann Dodd-Collins and I live in Portland. I am writing in opposition to LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380.

As a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), I am opposed to any bill which does not acknowledge and celebrate the full spectrum of gender identity and expression. Bills that discriminate against those who are transgender violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. These bills attempt to do just that.

I have a number of friends who are transgender. Let me tell you about one. I knew my friend as a man when we were board members of an international Quaker organization. In a number of ways he was my mentor. Several years later I heard that he had transitioned. Two years ago I had the opportunity to host her when she came to Portland for a Quaker event. We talked late into the night and through breakfast the next morning. It was an incredible blessing to spend time with someone I had known and respected and loved for years, who was patient with me as I accepted their true identity and began to understand what it means to be transgender. I still have a lot to learn, but because of my friend, I understand on a gut level that the ability to live authentically as one's true self is central to one's well-being.

Gender identity and the right to gender-affirming health care must be protected. I urge you to vote Ought NOT to Pass on these bills.

Thank you.