Priscilla Dreyman South Portland LD 233

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am a retired United Methodist minister and have lived in and served the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Maine since 1981. I most recently served as the pastor of Cape Elizabeth UMC. I stand with and for the trans community in Maine and beyond.

I am appalled by LD's 233, 868, 1002, 1134, and 1704, and ask that you do not support them. People who have chosen to become transgender are of sacred worth and deserve the same civil rights afforded to all US citizens. They do not deserve to be discriminated against, abused, threatened, or rejected because of a very difficult life choice they have made. They need our support and acceptance, not our recrimination or rejection. In Christian scripture, followers are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. This is a time to accept and affirm our trans neighbors as ourselves and to do unto them as we would them do unto us. We do not need more hate, rejection, and blame within our culture. Thank you for considering my testimony.