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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the Committee. My name is Hal Earle, I'm a resident of Westbrook. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As a transgender Mainer and US citizen, I have watched the growing tide of anti-trans legislation and rhetoric with horror and fear. I regularly question whether this country wants or values me. Maine's adamant support of trans rights thus far has provided substantial solace. Additionally, I work as a mental health counselor treating many transgender adults. Removing gender identity as a protected class would potentially expose them and me to the risk of losing housing, jobs, medical care and other necessities, simply for existing. It would send the message that Maine doesn't want us here. I believe that transgender Mainers are a valuable addition to the state, and I hope that the state of Maine feels the same way.

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!