

Elizabeth Fisher

Biddeford, Maine

May 8, 2025 (Afternoon block)

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Liz Fisher, I'm a resident of Biddeford, a local small business owner, non-binary, and a proud Mainer. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I want Maine to continue to be a place I am proud of and if these bills pass, I'm afraid I won't be able to keep telling everyone I know how happy I am to call Maine home. Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. The Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005 and changing this act or passing any of these bills would be unnecessary, help no one, while simultaneously causing harm to Maine's most vulnerable people. Is that the kind of state I want to live in?

Right now, people are using transgender and gender-diverse individuals as a focal point to reduce civil rights to a specific group of already vulnerable people. These changes are a slippery slope to roll back civil rights across the board later making it possible to take advantage of LGBTQ people, people of color, women, immigrants, and many others in need of support. Passing most of these bills would reward anti-trans activists' as well as the federal government's bullying tactics and open the door for further attacks on Mainers' civil rights. These bills WON'T make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.

In order to protect all Mainers, we need to protect these Mainers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.

I urge you to keep protections that we already have in place by voting "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!