

Brenda Franey
South Portland
LD 1432

Date: 5/8/2025

TO: The Honorable Senator Carney
The Honorable Representative Kuhn, and
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Brenda Franey
72 Simmons Rd.
South Portland, Me

RE: LD 1337 & LD 1432 – Acts to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act

My name is Brenda Franey and I live in South Portland. Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on these two proposed Acts regarding our current Maine Human Rights Act.

I am very proud of the comprehensive nature of our Maine Human Rights Act. It is apparent that a great deal of thought and effort went into this document in an effort to protect and support the many groups of people who are often subjected to bullying, injury and discrimination. Both LD 1337 and LD 1432 are efforts to actually remove a group of 'Humans' from the protections of the Maine Human Rights Act.. Humans who might have different sexual orientations or gender identities, from what other humans think of as 'the norm', are still human. And, as such, they are deserving of this protection. In fact, it is well documented that this a group of humans are often targets of bullying, injury and discrimination, and are in need of the protections found in our current Maine Human Rights Act.

Throughout my life I have had friends and loved ones who have struggled with their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. They have not caused harm to anyone else. These decisions are very personal. I am a Unitarian Universalist and we believe that all human beings have a spark of the divine and should live in a manner that IS TRUE TO THEM as long as there is no harm done to others.

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee – please vote “ought NOT to pass” on LD 1337 and LD 1432 and preserve our current Maine Human Rights Act that protects all the humans that live in Maine. Thank you for your consideration and your good work in serving the people of Maine.