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Gorham
LD 380

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Gorham, ME
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I am a woman by birth who identifies as a woman and a mother and I oppose the bills before the Committee today. I have two daughters and I worry constantly about men. I walk my 13-year old home from the bus. I have a safety talk I give them before sleepovers at homes where men or boys will be present.

But transgender women are not men and transgender women and girls are just as vulnerable because of their physical form as those of us deemed "real women" by our mainstream society.

Let children be children. Let them figure out what names they prefer and which pronouns and clothes feel right. Identity is very personal and is everything. Transgender is not a choice; there is science behind it. When it comes to whether people receive healthcare that could save their lives, it should not be up to outsiders, but to the people that need that healthcare and the medical professions who have the education and experience to help them decide what is best for them.

It's easy to reduce people to the status of Other. It dehumanizes them and history shows that we make that mistake again and again. Don't become another example of how we choose ignorance over compassion. Protect the transgender citizens of our state as you would protect any other citizen under your care. Thank you.