

Testimony of Coralie Giles, RN
President, Maine State Nurses Association
Vice-President, National Nurses United

**OPPOSING LD 1432, “An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the
Maine Human Rights Act”**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
Hearing: May 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee/National Nurses United (MSNA), representing more than 4,000 registered nurses and health care professionals providing patient care in our state, **urges the Committee to oppose LD 1432, a vicious attack on transgender people that asks the Maine legislature to take away human rights protections from people in Maine.**

LD 1432 would permit discrimination on the basis of gender identity in employment, housing, educational opportunity, access to public accommodations, and credit transactions. It would allow Mainers to be fired from their jobs, refused housing, and denied participation in society just because they are transgender. When Iowa passed a similar bill earlier this year, it was the first state to ever remove civil rights protections from a previously protected class.¹ Maine must not follow in Iowa’s shameful footsteps.

Supporters of this bill have claimed that they are trying to protect Maine’s access to federal funding by capitulating to the Trump administration’s demands to kick a child out of her school sports team.² This demand is part of the Trump administration’s rollout of several policies attacking and endangering transgender Americans’ health, safety, and lives. President Trump made clear during his campaign that this small group of people were a top target for demonization, and his policy agenda so far has demonstrated his willingness to not only target trans people with dangerous rhetoric, but also with dangerous policies not backed by science or medicine.³

¹ Yurcaba, J, Feb 28, 2025, *Iowa Governor Signs Bill Removing Gender Identity from State Civil Rights Protections*, NBC News, <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/iowa-governor-bill-removes-gender-identity-civil-rights-kim-reynolds-rcna194301>.

² Cover, S, Apr 1, 2025, *GOP calls for removal of gender identity from Maine Human Rights Act*, Spectrum News, <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/me/maine/politics/2025/04/01/gop-calls-for-removal-of-gender-identity-from-maine-human-rights-act->.

³ See National Nurses United, Feb 3, 2025, *Nurses condemn Trump administration attacks on trans people and patients*, <https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/nurses-condemn-trump-administration-attacks-on-trans-people-and-patients>; National Nurses United, Mar 19, 2025, *National Nurses United condemns VA’s decision to revoke*

Giving in to an authoritarian's demand to target a vulnerable minority group for discrimination only empowers them to ask for greater cruelties against more people. By contrast, standing up to the administration has already shown results—USDA agreed to end an unlawful freeze on funding to Maine after Maine sued the agency.⁴ Nurses and patients are already suffering from illegal impoundment of science and health funding, dismantling of health agencies, VA staffing cuts, and attacks on unions by the federal government.⁵ The idea that sacrificing trans rights will protect funding to Maine is either hopelessly naïve or cover for bigotry.

Trans people are our patients, our colleagues, our neighbors, our family members, and members of our communities and our profession. They will not be erased, ignored, demonized, or ostracized so long as there are nurses in this state with the hearts to care for them. **We strongly urge the committee to oppose LD 1432.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Coralie Giles RN".

Coralie (Cokie) Giles, RN
President, Maine State Nurses Association
Vice-President, National Nurses United

gender-affirming care from veterans, <https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/nnu-condemns-va-decision-to-revoke-gender-affirming-care-for-veterans>.

⁴ Mistler, S, May 2, 2025, *In settlement, the USDA agrees to end Maine funding freeze challenged by state AG*, Maine Public, <https://www.mainepublic.org/politics/2025-05-02/in-settlement-the-usda-agrees-to-end-maine-funding-freeze-challenged-by-state-ag>.

⁵ See, e.g., Protect Democracy, Apr 4, 2025, *Challenging politically-driven attacks on science and medical research*, <https://protectdemocracy.org/work/challenging-attacks-on-science/>; Stobbe, M, May 5, 2025, *Cuts have eliminated more than a dozen US government health-tracking programs*, AP, <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/workforce/2025/05/cuts-have-eliminated-more-than-a-dozen-us-government-health-tracking-programs/>; National Nurses United, Apr 2, 2025, *NNU statement on NIOSH layoffs*, <https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/nnu-statement-on-niosh-layoffs>; National Nurses United, Apr 7, 2025, *NYC nurses demand an end to VA staffing cuts*, <https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/nyc-nurses-demand-end-to-va-staffing-cuts>; National Nurses United, Apr 4, 2025, *Unions Sue Trump Administration Over Move to Bust Federal Employee Unions*, <https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/unions-sue-trump-administration-over-move-to-bust-federal-employee-unions>.