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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the group today. My name is Rylan Hynes of Hallowell, and I am a member of Maine's transgender community. LD 1432, An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act, is one of many proposals that is being considered today attacking transgender Mainers, and I am writing to express my deepest opposition to this bill.

This bill is a blatant attack on the human rights of an extremely vulnerable group of people. The fact that we are here today debating whether or not these protections should remain in place is abhorrent. [According to a 2022 survey from the UCLA Williams Institute](#), it estimated that .6% of the population of the United States identifies as transgender. Less than one percent. And yet what percentage of resources, media coverage, and vitriolic legislation has been directed towards attacking the transgender community?

In 2025 alone, [876 bills in 49 states](#) are being considered that aim to deny transgender people healthcare, that forcibly out transgender students in educational settings, bar transgender athletes from participating in sports, and even block our access to bathrooms. Sound familiar? That's because bills touching on all of those areas of our lives as transgender people are being considered here, today, in our Maine State Capitol.

The LGBTQ+ community is a tight knit group. Word of mouth travels fast, and over the past few years I have seen multiple accounts of people having to uproot their lives and families to move from other states across the country to relocate to Maine, a place where at least for them, for the time being, it was the way life should be. All these people want, all we want, is a place where we can live safely, where we can access healthcare, send our kids to school, cheer our kids on from the sidelines as they play sports. Who knows, maybe we'll even use the bathroom while we're here.

Of the 876 bills I mentioned earlier, 93 of those bills have already passed. Maine must remain a safe haven for transgender people. Our human rights must not be up for debate. We, the transgender community, will not be erased, no matter how many strike-throughs appear over us in policy and law. We will not be erased, no matter how much hate is spewed at us. We will not be erased, because we have always been here, and we always will be.

What Maine has the opportunity to do here, today, is to decide which side of history it will be on. Will we be known as a state that stands by its vulnerable citizens, one that upholds its two-decades of protections for our transgender community? Or will we, like so many other states have, be cowed by threats, rhetoric, and baseless attacks from oppressors who will do anything, say anything, and dehumanize anyone as long as it helps them cling to their feeble power?

I urge you once more to oppose LD 1432. Thank you for your time.

— Rylan Hynes