

Myke Johnson
Portland
LD 1002

I am a retired minister living in Portland. I want to speak against these bills that are focused on denying certain rights to trans adults and children. I was here in Maine when we passed legislation to protect the human rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals, as well as affirming by law the right to marry and create families. It is very discouraging that there are those who want to undermine and remove basic human rights from trans people, and especially to harm the children who need our support and affirmation to thrive.

I am a feminist. I see all around us the attacks on basic human rights of women, especially, for example, the right to bodily autonomy in the issue of pregnancy and choice. Trans women are not a danger to women. Trans girls are not a danger to girls. Children should be allowed to use nicknames and new names matching their felt experience and identity in school, as well as to name their own gender experience. I am sure you will hear from people who can outline the harmful effects on these bills for trans children. I won't go into that detail.

I just want to add my religious voice to those who care about all human rights, who welcome the incredible and beautiful diversity of the human experience, and who support giving all children the space they need to thrive.

Rev. Dr. Myke Johnson, Portland ME