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LD 1432

As someone who has lived in Maine my entire life, I find reassurance in knowing most Mainer's morals include minding their business. So I ask myself: how does someone asking for safe housing, a job, or an education regardless of their gender expression ruin my day? Why is someone else's gender expression any of my business? The only answer I can give is that another individual's way they express their gender is none of my concern. Given this, LD 1432 would do more harm than good to Maine residents' way of life by meddling into something that is not everyone's business.

According to a survey conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago in 2024, 47% of transgender respondents reported that they had experienced discrimination in public spaces, such as restaurants and shops. Additionally, NORC reported that transgender respondents experienced a 19% increase of discrimination compared to their cisgender counterparts.

Moreover, in a study conducted by UCLA School of Law, 80% of transgender employees stated they have experienced some form of workplace discrimination. With studies showing that transgender Americans experience a significant amount of discrimination, not only in public spaces, but workplaces, schools, healthcare facilities and more, it should be encouraged for gender expression to be a class protected by the Maine Human Rights Act.

Including gender expression not only protects those who are transgender individuals, but it also protects everyone the right to the freedom to express their gender however they please.

By passing this bill, it would allow for schools, employers, landlords and more to dictate crucial opportunities in an individual's life on the basis of if they fit their own definition of how a specific gender should act, dress or behave.

I'll leave you with a final thought: why should an individual be denied opportunities because they don't fit someone else's criteria of how certain genders should express themselves?