

Nadia LaBelle
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LD 1337

I am a trans woman writing to express opposition to LD 1137 "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters"

Women's shelters should accept trans women. LGBTQ people are all too often made homeless by discrimination; between being kicked out by unaccepting parents, unaffordable rent from lower paying job opportunities, and fleeing abuse from family or partners. Excluding trans women will just open us to more potential abuse, the same as turning away a cis woman would. No one deserves to live in fear, but this bill seems to say that trans women somehow deserve it. Yet trans women often experience abuse by men.

Trans women want acceptance, and to belong in places they feel comfortable and safe, such as women's bathrooms, changing rooms and shelters. Trans women are women, trans rights are human rights.

This bill also includes yet another attack on trans women in sports. Please see my testimony on LD 233 and LD 868 to refute these arguments yet again. Competition against a trans woman does not infringe on the rights of a cis woman.

I urge the committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1137.