

Testimony in opposition to :

LD 1337 “An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters”, and

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

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

I am submitting this testimony as an individual and not as a member of any group or organization to which I belong.

A quote from Maya Angelou sums up my thoughts on these proposals: “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”

When the term ‘gender identity’ was added to the Maine Human Rights Act, it was because we had come to **know better** and understand better about gender identity and what people who are gender non-conforming experience all too often.

Everyone—each of us—deserves to be protected from discrimination, to have the same rights, dignity, respect, and opportunities. These proposals would be a huge step backwards in this regard!

How far backwards will we go? Will there next be a proposal to once again allow discrimination against someone because of their sexual orientation? Because of their sex? Their color? Race? What other identities will it no longer be illegal to discriminate against?

As we have learned better, we have striven to do better—and we must continue to do so.

I strongly urge you to vote ‘ought **NOT** to pass’ on these proposals.

Thank you for your hard work on this and many other issues this year.

Grace Leavitt
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