

WAYNE M. MAINES:

In Opposition to

LD 233, LD 380, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, and LD 1432

Fourteen years ago, I stood before you at the Statehouse and explained what it was like to raise a transgender daughter who was being targeted by people who feared the unknown. The night before the vote Jonas and Nicole spoke on Maine Public radio. Jonas said he was afraid that someone might kill his sister. Nicole talked about being arrested for just being herself.

Soon after that hearing Maine showed the nation that everyone Maine gets to be who they need to be. With your help my children have survived years of attacks and are successful and productive Americans, who vote, pays taxes, and gives back to their communities. Nicole is an actress in Hollywood, she is on the award-winning show "Yellow Jackets." She was a co-star on CW's show Supergirl, has starred in two full length movies, has written two books, and twenty comic books.

Jonas works right here with you. He was voted by his classmates to be the student commencement speaker at the University of Maine Farmington. You can also see him acting at the Waterville Opera House or during Shakespeare in the Park in Portland.

This past summer I proudly brought filmmakers and eight dads with transgender children to northern Maine to fish, to support each other, and learn how to protect our children in a state that cares. It was the follow-up to our Netflix Emmy Award winning short film, "The Dads." Many of dads live in states that do have what Maine demands, equality for all.

We live in a nation that has lost its way, and many of our leaders are not leading with honor. I ended my speech that long passed day saying this; Continuing to single these kids out is not necessary. Having the opportunity to use the bathrooms of their true gender is essential for their well-being. This bill places transgender children in a position of doom and hopelessness. This bill tells my daughter that she does not have the same rights as her classmates and reinforces her opinion that she has no future. Help me give her the future she deserves. Do not pass this bill.

Please once again listen to your hearts and open your minds. I beg you to not waiver to the pressures being applied by a few powerful people. Show Maine's citizens who might not have access to the truth about our children, who may never meet a transgender person, or who have not gone fishing with me to learn more. Please show Maine's citizens and our nation that everyone in Maine still gets to be who they need to be. That you will continue to lead the way with honor and do not vote in favor of these bills.

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70 Olmsted Rd Stanford, CA 94305

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LD 233

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