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Los Angeles
LD 233

My name is Nicole Maines, I am a transgender woman, and I am speaking in opposition to proposed bills LD 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1137, and 1432

Today, I am a successful writer for DC Comics, as well as an actor, having appeared on the CW's Supergirl and most recently Yellowjackets on Showtime.

But when I was younger, as some may be familiar with, I was the anonymous plaintiff in Doe v Regional School Unit 26, which set a landmark precedent when the State Supreme Court ruled that I had been discriminated against, on the basis of my gender identity, by my public school after I was forced to use a separate bathroom from the rest of the student body, and had a staff chaperone assigned to follow me to make sure I used said bathroom. I know first hand what it is like to live as a transgender kid in Maine with and without protection. Before being made into a spectacle, I was a normal kid living in Orono. I had plenty of friends, I liked playing dress up, exploring the woods behind my house and yes, playing sports with the rest of my girlfriends.

But that all changed when my family was forced to split up and move towns because the public ridicule became so out of control after our community leaders bent their knee to special interest groups who had a bone to pick with trans kids.

Everyone deserves to feel safe and secure in their homes and their communities. But How can they do that if their fundamental human rights are allowed to be brought into question and taken away at the drop of a hat? How is anyone supposed to feel like they have their feet on solid ground if the rug can be snatched out from under them at a whim?

Because bills like these do not start and stop with trans people, as we have all seen. What they do is open the door for all of our rights to be brought back into question- Anyone who belongs to any marginalized group, be it in regards to their race, religion, gender or sexual identity, mental or physical ability, age, is at risk of having their basic protections taken away if we allow ourselves to cross this line into backtracking on hard-won civil rights issues.

And I ask you, to what end? What is the goal for removing protections for any group? So we can make sure it's possible for those people to be denied housing? Fired from their jobs? Kicked out of their communities? Who does that help?

The only reason that someone would want to remove human rights protections for anyone is because they have a clear cut plan to violate those protections, as clearly demonstrated by the bills presented today.

There are real problems that face all of us, and bills like these, with only hate and bigotry to back them up, waste taxpayer time and money by distracting us once again with this crusade against some of the most vulnerable in our communities.

And Maine deserves better.