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LD 1432

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Evonne McCain. I am a resident of Portland, and I am writing as a parent of a Trans daughter. I oppose all of the bills before the committee today. These bills are dangerous to the health, safety, and equal protection of all Mainers.

The Maine Human Rights Act was designed to protect the “basic human right to a life with dignity”. If you, as legislators, already have laws in place to protect basic human rights, why are you trying to remove a group of people from these protections? Do you consider people with a different view of gender orientation to be “less than” yourself? I urge you to ask yourself WHY do you feel this way? Do you know anyone who identifies as Transgender or non-binary? If not, how can you educate yourself and learn more about this community and how to support them, not discriminate against them?

As a parent to a child who is being threatened with the removal of her basic human rights, every day I wake up and think “How did we get to this place, where people are discriminating against my child, just because she doesn’t fit into their box of how they think people should be?” And by the way, that box is WRONG. I love my daughter’s out-of-the-box thinking. She and her friends have introduced me to new, creative ways of being in the world and I am so grateful for that. I don’t want to put things in boxes anymore. Boxes are constraining, they discourage interaction and cooperation. They isolate.

I want my child to live as expansive a life as possible, with all of the freedoms she had prior to identifying as transgender. I want everyone to know how beautiful and amazing she is. If you met her and took a minute to talk to her, you would see that too, and you would wonder why you are trying to destroy that. Because placing limits on which playing field she can be on, or which restroom she can use, destroys a little bit of her soul every day. And she has worked so hard to claim every authentic piece of her Self.

Every day, my daughter stands proudly in her identity, and sometimes discomfort, in walking thru this world. In the past few months, the stress and fear that she has experienced has weighed on her and our family. We moved to Maine several years ago, because of the protections that this state offers to its’ citizens. We want to stay here. We want our daughter to feel safe in the community we call home. We need our public officials to fight against oppression and discrimination, to continue to make Maine a safe place for all Mainers.

EVERY PERSON has the guarantee of equal protection in our State and Federal constitutions. Let’s keep it that way.

I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on these bills. Thank you.