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To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.”

My name is Sharon McDonnell. I am a physician and an epidemiologist and I live in Yarmouth Maine.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation. I am writing to you today in opposition of the bills before the committee.

I have worked for some years in efforts to assure that our science and policies are guided by human-centered information. Over time it became clear that collecting information on the gender identity of people was important. It was important to them and it helped us -- as health officials -- be smarter in our program implementation.

Do not erase these steps forward out of some misplaced fears or sense that something will go away if we don't "count it".

I don't hear anyone expressing concern about threats from LGBTQI people, and I am shocked at the effort that some people will go to stigmatize and degrade the rights of these fellow Mainers and to make them feel like outsiders.

There is a lot of nuance that will never be wisely navigated by state legislation. Let us not get swept up in the fury of national fads about this.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on these bills. Thank you!”