

Gabrian McPhail
Vinalhaven
LD 868

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Gabrian McPhail, and I am a resident of Vinalhaven. I am submitting written testimony in strong opposition to LD 868.

I work on the ground in communities across Maine with people from all walks of life, backgrounds, and income levels. I believe — and have always believed — that trans rights are human rights. Maine is like a big family, and everyone in that family deserves equal protection under the law.

I've stood by my trans family members and colleagues when they were denied the right to marry, the right to access restrooms, and the right to affirming healthcare. I've celebrated with them when progress was made, especially when Maine amended the Human Rights Act to reinforce protections for gender identity. These bills would take us backwards — and hurt the very people our laws are meant to protect.

Passing any of these bills would open the door to discrimination, harassment, and exclusion — in our schools, shelters, healthcare system, and communities. Maine has come too far to start treating some people as less deserving of dignity and rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective. I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on all of these bills.

Thank you.