

Kelly Merrill
Stratton
LD 1432

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Good afternoon Chairs Senator Carne and Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Kelly Merrill and I serve as the Co-Chair of the Maine Green Independent Party. I am a resident of Stratton. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today in opposition to LD 1432, “An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act.”

If saying we all have equal rights were enough, we wouldn’t be here. If we all had equal rights, we wouldn’t need to list identities in the Maine Equal Rights Amendment. White cisgender property-owning men don’t need to list their identities, because they already have the rights that the rest of us continue fighting for. And all of this driven by a man who doesn’t see women as fully human, but as objects for the taking.

“Gender identity” must be preserved in the Maine Human Rights’ Act. If nonbinary and trans people didn’t need extra protection, we wouldn’t have fought for its inclusion in the first place. And if the prohibition on discrimination based on sexual orientation applies, we’d need that to be explicitly stated. Which means that we ought to just leave Maine Human Rights’ Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The Maine Green Independent Party urges you to vote ONTP on LD 1432, as well as all other anti-trans bills.