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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing because I strongly oppose the bills before the committee today. My name is Noa Nasoff, I live in Brunswick Maine, and as a college student originally from Louisiana, I have witnessed the devastating impact anti-trans legislation has on students and children. My friends, loved ones, and family have lost their right to simply exist as people in our nation simply because of their gender identity. To remove references to "gender identity" in the Maine Human Rights Act would be detrimental to the lives of countless Mainers. The wording of this bill in itself is vague, discrimination against queer and trans people is considered discrimination on the basis of sex and/or sexual orientation, so it's not immediately clear what effect removing "gender identity" would have on protections for trans Mainers. Maine must not be passive and should push back against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Stay true to your promises to protect all people of Maine and stand up for what is right.

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!