

Julia Payne
Augusta, ME
May 8th, 2025

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Julia Payne, I'm a resident of Augusta. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee.

Firstly, Transgender Rights are Human Rights! I implore you to remember that you represent people of all genders, transgender, nonbinary and cisgender, who face discrimination based on sex. Everyone deserves to learn, work, love, play, and build full lives without fear for their safety and survival.

Currently, there are bills across the country attacking Transgender people. I am saddened to see them show up here in the great state of Maine. The passage of these bills would certainly put Transgender lives in peril. The proposed legislation is based on hate and provenly false claims. Biological evidence does not support the belief that gender identity results from a single gene, or even from the presence of a specific number of X and Y chromosomes. Gender identity emerges from multiple factors among genes, the environment, personal feelings of expression, and even varies across time.

I ask you to defend the right to choose how one expresses gender and gender identity. The road to acceptance and equality has been long, but we will never stop fighting for everyone's right to live freely and authentically without discrimination or violence. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you