

May 7th, 2025

Dear Chairs Carney and Kuhn and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

Hello my name is Rayla Reif. I live in South Portland. I am writing today on behalf of Portland Outright to speak against LD 380 and LD 1432.

These bills matter greatly to me because as a transgender American, I benefit greatly from the protections offered by the Maine Human Rights Act and actively receive gender affirming care. Maine's progressive stance on transgender issues was one of the reasons I decided to move to the state, and I believe that the loss of these protections would be a great loss to myself and many others. Portland Outright is committed to the liberation of queer and otherwise marginalized youth in Maine.

Transgender Americans are among the most at risk group of people in the United States, and as someone who has struggled personally with mental health issues, I can attest that the protections these bills seek to revoke would only serve to make these struggles worse for the transgender community. Myself and many trans people I have known over the years have all reported experiencing discrimination in some form, and most of the same people have had issues with suicidal ideation in the past. The suicide rate among trans people is one of the highest in the nation, and making life harder for them by allowing employers to discriminate against them or allowing them to be denied the ability to find a place to live would only serve to make this issue worse. I have seen too many trans people, many friends included, struggle to find reasons to continue living, and giving them fewer reasons to by revoking some of the protections they have would be a disastrous mistake.

It is for that reason that I write to you today to urge you to oppose bills LD 380 and LD 1342. Thank you for your time and attention, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.