

Jillian Reihl
Belgrade
LD 1002

My name Jillian Reihl (she/her) and I am a resident of Belgrade, Maine. I am writing today to oppose all of the anti-trans legislation currently before this committee.

I was born and grew up in Central Maine. Like so many people I moved away after college, but eventually came home to raise a family. I came home because I wanted to be around a community that is welcoming and respectful, a place where ALL people are treated with dignity. A place where people stop to help if your car is broken down or stuck in the snow.

As I watched today's testimony I was struck by the wisdom and knowledge shared by doctors, community leaders, and faith leaders. Most of all, though, I was touched, and also heart broken, to hear the lived experiences of trans people. I hope you will take heed of their wisdom. The people who offered testimony today explained with clarity that using a child's chosen name and pronouns is protective in the way that a vaccine is. They explained that for many children, school can be one of the safest spaces. It is that environment of respect and inclusivity that I want for Maine and for my family.

I did not realized until today that so many families have chosen to make Maine their home because they view it as a safe place. I am so incredibly proud of our little state and the stand we have taken so far.

I offer this testimony today primarily as a mother of a five-year-old child. I hope that regardless of who she grows up to be, how she identifies, or who she loves, she too will feel safe calling Maine home. With this vote, you decide what tone to set for my daughter's future.

Please vote "ought not to pass" and keep Maine a place that is safe and inclusive