

Gabriel Robertson
Portland
LD 1432

Subject: Opposition to Attacks on the Maine Human Rights Act

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write as a concerned resident of Maine to oppose LD 1337 and LD 1432, which would strip essential anti-discrimination protections from transgender people.

I have a young cousin, born and raised in southern Maine, who will soon turn three. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, most children begin to develop a stable sense of their gender identity between the ages of 2 and 4. See: www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/Pages/Gender-Identity-and-Gender-Confusion-In-Children.aspx.

Some of these children—including my cousin and peers in daycare—will grow up to tell us they are cisgender. Some will grow up to tell us they are transgender. All deserve to be able to participate in daily life with safety and dignity.

That means the right to ride the bus, use public restrooms, apply for jobs, and access services—including shelters—without fear of exclusion based on gender identity. Research indicates that in states lacking explicit protections for gender identity, transgender individuals face higher rates of discrimination and adverse outcomes. For instance, a study published in the Journal of LGBT Youth found that states with comprehensive anti-discrimination policies reported significantly fewer instances of discrimination against transgender and nonbinary individuals. See: www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19361653.2020.1821276.

Please stand up for equal protection and reject these bills.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Robertson
Portland, ME