

Testimony in Opposition to LD1432

Robin Russel, J.D., Ph.D.

Hermon, Maine

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am submitting written testimony in opposition to LD1432, being considered by the Committee today. I have advanced degrees in both law and social work and have been employed as an attorney and as a university professor. I currently teach social work at the University of Maine. I have worked with both transgender persons as both an attorney and as an educator. I could never understand why this group of citizens were not afforded the same rights as any other population. And, today in 2025 I cannot understand why the state of Maine would change its Human Rights legislation to not include and protect this group of Mainers. I have been proud to live and work in a state that extends equal rights to all our citizens regardless of gender identity.

Further our current Human Rights Act fits well with the US Supreme Court's interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in *Bostock v. Clayton County*. This 2020 decision extended protections to transgender persons in employment discrimination cases.

Twenty years ago, the Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections against discrimination based on gender identity. Let's not go back to a time when this type of discrimination was allowed in Maine.

I urge you to vote “ought not to pass” on LD1432.