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LD 1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Rachel Stamieszkin. I am from Cape Elizabeth, and I am a person who cares about human rights.

Everyone deserves equal treatment under the law. The proposed changes to LD1337 and LD1432 begin to chip away at the rights of one group based on their gender identity. This is un-American. All humans deserve the right to freely be themselves and not to be penalized for it. Who is the government to say that one group should be turned away for needed help because of their gender? Can you imagine a woman running for her life to a shelter and being turned away because she somehow doesn't fit someone else's definition of a woman – or even having to prove she is a woman? Some people are using trans people as a weapon to further an agenda to roll back civil rights of LGBTQ people, people of color, women, immigrants, and many others. Let's not make Maine a place of Division – let's keep Maine a place of safety and inclusion for ALL.

For these reasons, please vote "Ought not to pass" on all of these bills. Thank you.