

Ellen Sudow  
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LD 233

To Members of the Joint Maine Legislative Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you in opposition to all of the pending legislation designed to eliminate current protections for the transgender citizens of the great state of Maine. As a straight voting resident of the State of Maine/mother of a gay young man I have always been proud of the leadership the state has shown to protect our LGBTQ community, including: our voters approving a statewide referendum to ensuring marriage equality; enshrining protections for all members of the community in our Maine Human Rights Act; and providing guidance to schools to make them safe for all students. I have never been more proud of our State than now as our Governor stands up to bullying and retaliation from an overreaching President using transgender youth and adults as red meat for his base of supporters.

This is exactly why I find it so difficult that these hearings are even taking place, the mere holding of which may be interpreted as failure to withstand pressure from illegal and unlawful retaliation for our Governor's courageous defense of our state. It is unconscionable that our legislative body is even considering comprehensive legislation that would deny fundamental rights and protections to our transgender neighbors and friends...all because a narrowly elected President has decided to overturn years of civil rights laws and regulations designed to protect the most vulnerable among us.

For our elected representatives to reverse course and overturn years of state progress and leadership by removing gender identity protections from our Maine Human Rights Act; denying life saving health care to transgender youth; and, in the name of "keeping boys out of girls sports" green lighting bullying and inevitably creating intrusive enforcement procedures that will disproportionately impact all girls whether transgender or cis gendered.

I urge you to vote against all of these pieces of legislation. Please send a clear message to an overreaching federal government and to Maine's transgender community that Maine will not be caught up in or bow to the current administration's political agenda.

Ellen Sudow  
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