

Ella Tabasky
Brunswick
LD 1337

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

I am writing in strong opposition to LD 1337 and LD 1432, two bills that represent not only a step backward for civil rights in Maine but also a direct threat to the safety, dignity, and well-being of some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

LD 1337 seeks to undermine the Maine Human Rights Act by carving out exceptions that would allow shelters to discriminate against trans women. Trans women in Maine already face immense barriers when trying to access emergency shelter, and they experience violence at disproportionate rates. This bill also aims to align Maine's law with a federal interpretation of Title IX that is currently under legal and political dispute. Maine should not tether its human rights laws to a shifting and increasingly hostile federal agenda.

LD 1432 proposes removing "gender identity" from the Maine Human Rights Act, a protection that's been in place since 2005. While some may argue that "sex" and "sexual orientation" are enough to protect trans Mainers, the reality is that explicit protections matter. They provide clarity, enforceability, and affirmation of trans people's rights to exist safely in schools, housing, employment, and public life.

Collectively, these bills do not protect women, fairness, or children. They target and scapegoat trans people under the guise of public interest, when in fact they are part of a national political movement that is trying to chip away at civil rights.

I urge you to vote ought not to pass on these bills. Maine can and must do better than this. We are a state that values fairness, compassion, and evidence-based policy. Let's continue to lead with those values and not be swayed by fear or misinformation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.