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LD 1432

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

I am Rev. Susan Townsley and I am testifying on behalf South Congregational Church in Kennebunkport. As people of faith we see Jesus did not mete out judgment of people, instead he received each individual as they were. Sometimes he would urge them to “sin no more” but that which he considered sin was never a matter of their identity.

I know some will tell you that people who are trans are somehow “grooming” others. This is completely specious. We now have enough experience with trans individuals interacting with the public to know that protecting our neighbor’s rights to be themselves only gives all of us more room to be ourselves.

We also know that trans people are unduly subjected to the cruelty of those who judge against them. Without such protection, we will still have the same number trans people, but we will have more traumatized, assaulted and vandalized trans people.

Let us let people be people, however they are made to be.

We are asking you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 1432, and LD 1337