

David Wadstrup
Rockland, Maine
May 8th, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is David Wadstrup, and I live and vote in Rockland, Maine. This is my written testimony in OPPOSITION to the bills before the committee on May 8th(LD 233, LD 868, LD1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1432, LD 380.)

I'm not going to use this space to unpack the many transphobic talking points you'll hear from those who wrote and/or are seeking to advance these bills. Busting the myths they're presenting as so-called realities is profoundly important, but has already been thoroughly, repeatedly done elsewhere, and would require space beyond what I have here.

Some of you may already be familiar with the claims associated with these hateful proposals, and hopefully already understand them to be patently misleading, false, and lacking in all compassion. Hopefully, most of you understand that these bills are not rational, good faith attempts to address important public concerns as they are made out to be. Hopefully, most of you understand that they are not, at heart, about issues of "fairness," or the "protection of women and children," or about any of the other dishonest claims these bills' authors pretend are their reasons for presenting them. In reality, the opposite of what they say is true. Their targeting of a very small, already very vulnerable group of people for further social exclusion, by taking from them their legal protections from discrimination, AKA their human rights, and by prohibiting them from receiving the healthcare they require, makes it clear that these bills will make Maine less fair and will endanger us all. Especially the children they believe themselves to be protecting. Certainly, ensuring that trans people are ostracized, and certainly, encouraging trans people to be bullied(or people simply suspected of being trans,) and certainly, violating people's privacy, will achieve fairness and safety for no one. Maine's trans community is not the enemy these bills' authors imply it to be.

Understandably, some of you may be unsure of what to make of these bills claims, and some of you may still have honest, good faith questions. We're living through a time of multiple crises where we're being blindsided by manipulators who are "flooding the zone" on a daily basis. It's difficult to get a handle on all that is happening, and is sometimes hard to know which way is up and what to

think about issues of which we may have very little knowledge. This is true for all of us. I do not ask that you take my word for anything. But I do respectfully ask, if you have any questions, or are unsure of what, exactly, is at stake in these bills, that you reach out to and look for guidance from any of the many groups or thousands upon thousands of Maine citizens who oppose these bills. I'd like to respectfully ask, for the sake of one of the most bullied, marginalized, and harassed communities in our wonderful state of Maine, to please do what you can to keep yourself from being duped into giving credence to the transphobic motivations behind every single one of these bills. There are countless compassionate people and many loving organizations and resources who would honor the chance to discuss with you whatever questions you may have.

To a very great extent, you, as our legislators, hold the safety and the dignity and the freedom and the health and the future of us all in your hands. You have been asked by the authors of these bills, who are often only blindly following orders from above, to participate in their mission to further marginalize and harm Maine's trans community. Please stand on the right side of history. Please resist them and loudly vote in opposition to every one of these bigoted bills.

Thank you.

David Wadstrup
Rockland
LD 1134

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