

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Liz Winfeld and I am a resident of Portland. More than that, I am a human being who stands in opposition to other human beings being denigrated out of ignorance or, perhaps worse, because the people doing are trying to create a sideshow to keep citizens from seeing the other evil, distasteful and completely reprehensible things they are doing.

This Testimony is for your consideration as you consider ALL the Bills you are considering today. ALL OF THEM on May 8, 2025.

I am a Jew and I am a gay, married, woman. Where the first is concerned, ALL of the bills you are considering today are just 21st century versions of the pointless and hateful discrimination that led to the Holocaust in Germany in the 1930's. Denigrating a person's life experience just because you don't "understand" it or "don't like it" is wrong. You're starting with trans people because the argument that a "boy shouldn't compete with girls" is just so easy to make. And the things about restrooms show a complete lack of understanding of what gender dysphoria is and who trans people are. They are NOT sexual predators and the fascination the people bringing these hateful Bills to the fore have with "restrooms" is completely juvenile. Grow up. Trans people are NO threat, anywhere they go or in anything they do any more than non-Trans people are.

Where being gay is concerned, I know what comes next: some "Bill" to remove sexual orientation as a protected class in Maine's non-discrimination laws or to outlaw my marriage of 19 years.

We have real problems as a society: climate change, economic inequality, unfair tax rules, food insecurity among poor people and particularly children, difficulty bringing the Internet to rural areas...the list is a long one. Trans people are NOT on it or, at least, they shouldn't be.

Please vote "Ought NOT to pass" on ALL the Bills you are considering today.

Thank you.