

Nichole Fournier
Lewiston
LD 2239

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Lewiston, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Nichole. I am a resident of Lewiston and an Anthropology professor at the University of Southern Maine. I am vehemently opposed to the proposed ballot measure LD 2239. To ban a group of people on the basis of any aspects of their social identity would be a gross regression to times that this country is ashamed of. We celebrate holidays marking the days when we ceased discriminating against people on the basis of their skin color or sex. Why on earth would we want to go back to those days? Anyone who thinks transgender bans are not exactly the same as banning a woman from voting or a person of color from attending a school needs to do some learning. Misinformation and disinformation are the only ways to think this would be acceptable. Bans like this are actively attempting to spread misinformation by making it impossible for people to learn about gender and to accept gender diversity. I teach a number of trans gender students. They are scared to be living through these times where so many states are desperately trying to erase them by force. Please do not let Maine be one of those states. Thank you for hearing my perspective.