



January 14, 2021

Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Quinn Gormley. I'm the Executive Director of the Maine Transgender Network, and I'm presenting testimony today on behalf of Maine's LGBTQ+ policy coalition, which includes MaineTransNet as well as: GLAD, EqualityMaine, Maine Women's Lobby, and the ACLU of Maine.

Together, we are in favor of LD 1786, An Act To Maintain Consistency Among Maine's Nondiscrimination Statutes. LD 1786 is a simple, straightforward bill. It ensures that throughout Maine law, we will use language consistent with the Maine Human Rights Act when addressing discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin, age or familial status. This ensures these explicit protections extend to such areas as state agency hiring and contracting practices, jury service, access to financial assistance programs, and candidacy for public office.

This consistency reflects hard work done by this committee in recent years, work that is supported by the majority of Mainers, to ensure our non discrimination laws reflect current best language and practices for achieving a safe, fair, and just system of protections for all Mainers. It will also create clarity and consistency, which is good for Mainers as well as the people who seek to abide by or enforce our laws. Passage of this bill will see that work extended to our other nondiscrimination protections so that no matter who we are, we know discrimination is not the Maine way, sending a clear message about the will of Maine's people that we favor a state where all are welcome.

Thank you for considering this bill, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Quinn Gormley
On behalf of:
Maine Transgender Network
GLBTQ Advocates and Defenders (GLAD)
ACLU of Maine
EqualityMaine
Maine Women's Lobby

