

Maria Christian  
Eliot  
LD 868

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Maria Christian. I am a resident of Eliot. I am writing this statement in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

Ten years ago, I was a 14 year old girl, sobbing as cisgender girls in my gym class sexually harassed me because of how I looked. My hair was cut short, I wore long pants over my unshaven legs, and didn't know how to use makeup. I was assigned female at birth, and have no intersex conditions, but my gender was thrown into question, and I was groped and mocked for it. I failed the subconscious gender test my classmates were putting me to.

Now, the state wants to cement this subconscious test as law, and to empower cruel children to harass and objectify their classmates. I am asking the committee to behave like adults, and as the apostle Paul advised us, to "put away childish things." Ignorance is childish. Cruelty is childish.

There are two transfeminine athletes in our entire state's school system. I think of them and I remember the shame and terror I felt when I faced bullying from my peers. They are now facing down bullying from grown adults who take perverted pleasure in humiliating teenage girls. Our children deserve more, and we adults need to grow up.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you.