Valene Thacker Old Town LD 380

As a parent here in Maine I am of the belief that making these changes will cause more harm than good. Maine schools and communities should be providing and creating a safe and supportive environment, which is not always found at the child's home. (Please note there are thousands of children in the foster care system that prove that.)

Children's lives and upbringing are better when they feel safe and nurtures to be who their true selves. School climates are improved when more students participate in extracurricular activities. We should make it easier, not harder, for participation.

By segregating trans and non-binary students you are putting them at increased risk for dangerous bullying and harassment directed towards them. Trans and non-binary people are already a high risk group of people for such things. We should be protecting them, not making things harder and more dangerous for them.

Making this alterations is a threat to the privacy of these human beings. These bans will insight fear, confusion, distrust, and unrest amongst the non-queer and allied community. These changes are unnecessary, benefit no one, and aren't even based of the scientific evidence of actual transitioning humans and their abilities.

I am pleading with you as a parent, as a human, do not do this. Protect our trans and non-binary community. Think if it was your kid getting threatened, having intimate details of their lives exposed. Please, don't do do this!