

Julian Bencze
Portland, ME
May 4, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Committee today. My name is Julian Bencze, I'm a resident of Portland Maine, and I am speaking today in opposition of LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704.

I am a transgender adult, and as I struggled with my gender identity, the support of trusted teachers and supervisors was incredibly important. Replacing supportive people with intrusive policing about my self expression would have been exponentially detrimental to my teen mental health. Growing up and navigating social situations is difficult enough for all children without them having to be shamed, investigated, and ostracized by the adults who are responsible for maintaining their well-being. No child should face scrutiny over their body for ANY reason, and certainly not for participation in after-school extracurriculars. It's dehumanizing, and it's creepy.

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