

Rev. Tara Humphries
Portland
LD 1134

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee-

My name is Reverend Tara Humphries. I am a resident of Portland and serve as the Pastor of Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1134. I submit this as a leader in the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, which affirms and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the inherent worth and dignity of every person, trans folks included, as a core expression of our faith.

LD 1134 (and all anti-trans LDs) should NOT become law because not only is it unconstitutional to ban trans people from playing sports, but banning trans children is harmful to all Maine women and girls. It creates prejudice and fear that any child, even those who aren't trans, could be required to have their genitals examined or undergo a DNA test which is invasive and traumatizing.

I testify as a reflection of my Unitarian Universalist faith, as well as from my own experience as a non-binary athlete born and raised in Maine. I came up through the Greely/MSAD 51 school system and have been an athlete my whole life. I competed, before coming out, on the D1 Bates Women's Nordic Ski Team. I can't imagine my life without sports, and sports should not be taken away from any child, youth, or young adult. It was through sport that I learned teamwork, resilience, and hard work -- core values shared by all Mainers. As a female athlete, the threat of getting my DNA tested or my genitals checked would have been a horrendous violation of my privacy and traumatized me and my teammates. We can, and we must, do better.

I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1134 and all other anti-trans bills.

Respectfully,
Rev. Tara Humphries