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

My name is Nikki Williams, and I'm a resident of Portland. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee.

As a parent, I know that these bills would hurt Maine schools and communities. Schools should create a supportive environment where every student can receive an education, feel safe to be themselves, and participate in school activities. Participating in sports teaches important values like perseverance, dedication, self-assurance, and teamwork. We should want more young people to play sports, not put up barriers for girls across Maine that subject them to invasive interrogation or make them risk public ridicule.

These bans would also invite any person to call for an invasive or traumatizing "gender check" on any girl who wants to play sports if they think she is "too tall" or "too strong." Bans embolden spectators, community members, and fellow competitors to bully and harass girls by accusing them of being trans. If these bills pass, they will become another weapon for bullies to use against girls in Maine.

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!