

LD868

Hello Committee,

Thank you for your time and consideration. My name is Marissa Bickford and I am an involved resident of Westbrook, Maine. You may have seen my testimony on several other bills this session. I am a Queer advocate, documentary filmmaker, after school care worker, person in recovery, and 5th generation Mainer.

I cannot support LD868 and neither should you. Not only does this leave room for the violation of young girls (cisgender, or otherwise) it creates a toxic environment in schools. When schools become less supportive places we open children up to adverse childhood experiences that make them statistically more susceptible to mental health disorders and drug addictions.

This bill blatantly disrespects the privacy of underaged individuals. It sows fear and distrust without taking into account information about people such as intersex individuals and those who genetically are outside the binary. It is half-baked and harmful to our most vulnerable populations. But I guess that's what the bill is going for. If it was truly about protecting children it would have never been proposed in the first place.

Finally, Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection, LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 are discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore are not constitutional. These bills go against Title IX and the Maine Human Rights Act.

Passing LD868 would reward the federal government's bullying tactics and open the door for further attacks on Mainers' civil rights, but it won't make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.

Many thanks,
Riss