Patricia Galloway
Eliot
LD 1432

Patricia Galloway
Eliot, ME
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Patricia Galloway and I am a resident of Eliot, ME.

I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I have many family members who identify differently than our standard gender stereotypes. These include several beloved cousins who identify as gay or lesbian, a brilliant and kind hearted nonbinary niece, and a gifted and shy transgender nephew. It is my belief that my transgender nephew would not be alive today if he had not been allowed to have gender affirming care as a teenager. I feel it was his top surgery at age 16 that really saved him. His very large breasts kept him from attending school outside his home for years due to his gender dysphoria. His top surgery allowed him to be and feel more like his authentic self and he is slowly stepping out into the community.

I recently read "Becoming Nicole" by Amy Ellis Nutt, a book about what it's like to grow up as a transgender girl in Maine. One thing I learned from the book regarding transgender athletes: "After one year on female hormones or male hormone suppressants, any advantage a transgender athlete might have had is gone." Transgender girls are girls. They look like girls because they ARE girls, no matter their genitalia. They do not belong in male sports or male bathrooms where they would be bullied and harassed, and calling them by male pronouns is just cruel no matter what is written on their birth certificates. Schools should create a supportive environment, not put up barriers for girls across Maine that subject them to invasive interrogation or make them risk public ridicule. I'm fairly horrified that any one of these bills could move forward.

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,
Patricia Galloway