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As a parent, a school staff member and as a former school athlete, I know that these bills would hurt Maine schools and communities:

Schools should create a supportive environment where every student can receive an education and participate in school activities.

School climates are improved when more children participate in extracurricular 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.

As a parent and an educator, I know that these bills would leave ALL girls vulnerable to scrutiny and harassment

These bans would 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.

Any attempt to enforce this ban blatantly violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls.

These bans empower schools to engage in policing adherence to gender norms, which unfairly scrutinizes girls’ bodies, and have been shown to affect girls of color even more. These bans will cause fear, distrust, and confusion for students, families, and educators.