

Susan Kistenmacher
Farmingdale
LD 868

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this testimony in opposition to LD 868, An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools.

The definition of equity is “the quality of being fair and impartial.” Synonyms of equity include fairness, impartiality and justice.

This bill appears to be the opposite of equity.

As a former public-school teacher, I know that kids need to grow up and go to school in an environment where they are accepted and feel comfortable with who they are.

Issues dealing with sports and bathroom and locker room facility use need to be decided in a way that is fair and safe for all students. Often they need to be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the students involved and the facilities available. Local school districts along with the families involved can best do this.

Finally, this bill is just plain cruel. They focus on a small group of people who already face struggles and discrimination. Whether we understand LGBTQ people or not, we don't want to make life harder for them. Maine is better than that.

Please oppose LD 868