

Jamie Moore
Portland
LD 1704

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

I am grateful for the opportunity to offer my testimony to the Committee. My name is Jamie Moore and my pronouns are she/her. I am a registered voter in Portland, and I offer my testimony as a parent and as a social worker. I am in opposition to the bills before the Committee today.

As a mom, I made a deliberate choice with my family to live in Portland for the past 13 years so that my son could attend Portland Public Schools - the most diverse school district in our state. My son has friends who speak languages other than English, who practice different religions, who are neurodivergent, and who are transgender.

The bills before you today target his transgender friends, who are often already the target of bullying and exclusion. As a mom and as a social worker, I am deeply concerned for the mental well-being of these children who, as a result of these bills, will either find themselves further constrained from being their authentic selves in order to "fit in," or will find themselves restricted from participating in the school sports and activities because they are being true to who they are. I also worry about all girls in our schools, who will likely be subject to greater scrutiny, judgment, and interrogation about private matters under the guise of bills that are purporting to protect their rights. This is not a cost that any of our students should pay, whether they are transgender or cisgender.

There are more important and impactful ways to support Maine students and girls, in sports and in education - equally funding boys and girls sports teams and facilities, increasing anti-bullying programs in schools, hiring more teachers and support staff. Stoking division and creating an unsupportive environment for transgender students is not benefiting any students. 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,
Jamie Moore