

Abigale Razo

Washington, ME

May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Abigale Razo. I'm a resident of Washington, Maine, a licensed clinical social worker, and a competitive athlete. I'm here to express my strong opposition to LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134, which I believe will cause serious harm to an already marginalized community.

As someone who has played team sports at the youth, high school, and collegiate levels—and who now competes as an adult with Rock Coast Roller Derby—I've seen firsthand the many challenges women and girls face in sports. But transgender athletes are not the cause of those challenges. The real issues include lack of funding, unequal access to practice spaces, a shortage of coaches and mentors, limited media coverage, higher instances of sexual harassment and abuse, and persistent gender stereotypes. These are the problems policymakers should be addressing.

Sports are a powerful force for good. They teach perseverance, teamwork, confidence, and resilience. For some students, participating in sports is what keeps them engaged in school and connected to their community. We should be working to remove barriers to participation—not creating new ones through invasive policies or public scrutiny.

Athletic success is not determined solely by gender. Every athlete is different—in talent, training, drive, and ability. Being transgender doesn't guarantee an advantage or a disadvantage. What matters is opportunity and inclusion.

Lastly, it's important to remember that laws targeting transgender students are unconstitutional. These bills discriminate on the basis of sex and violate both state and federal equal protection guarantees.

No one should be excluded from the joy and lifelong benefits of sports. I urge the Committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.