

Tyla Parker
Lewiston, Maine
May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judicial Committee.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Tyla Parker. I live in Lewiston Maine, and I am here on behalf of myself and the many transgender individuals in Maine whose voices cannot be heard today. I am in opposition of LDD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134 LD 1704, LD 1337, and LD 1432.

As an adult transgender woman in this state, I can recall thinking I was supposed to be a girl at the age of three years old and onwards. These feelings were persistently present my entire life and while I had a family that loved me, and continue to today, I feel it may not have been the same without the public knowledge and knowhow that communities have about transgender people today.

Through my own experiences and the wonderful people I have met since beginning my transition at the age of 22, I can attest that the changes due to hormone replacement therapy are very real contrary to what many politicians will try to argue. My strength and muscle mass is many times comparable, and less than that of cisgender women (Assigned female at birth) in my life. I am a homeowner, full-time worker, and a Mainer and I owe where I am today to doctors that helped me align my body with my mind and soul. If the protections that exist currently in Maine existed for me during my youth, I have no doubt that I would have had the courage to transition sooner and saved myself so much suffering.

Trans athletes make up .002% of US college athletes according to sf.gov and are not dominating women's sports in any manner of the word, and bills like these opens the door for cisgender women to be accused of being transgender just because they may not appear feminine enough to another athlete's perspective. These bills claim to protect women but put them at much higher risk for violence just for not "appearing female". I oppose these bills not only to protect transgender people, but to protect women of all shapes, sizes, races, and ages. This bill needs to fail; else this Committee will be enabling the endangerment of all people on the basis of gender or physical presentation.

I thank this Committee for this opportunity to share my perspective on these bills. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on these bills. Thank you