



Fred McCann

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**Testimony in Opposition of  
LD 1337: An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding  
Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters**

**May 6th, 2025**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of Committee on Judiciary, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this legislation. My name is Fred McCann. I'm a resident of Portland and I'm currently serving as Vice President on the Portland Water District Board of Trustees.

Firstly, this bill is inherently discriminatory in its aim to deny access to emergency shelter based solely on a person's gender identity. It perpetuates the harmful stereotype that transgender women are a threat to cisgender women and denies them access to life-saving resources. Transgender people, especially transgender women, already face significant barriers to accessing appropriate shelter and are disproportionately at risk of violence when they are homeless. Shelters have been successfully accommodating all women's needs for years, and it is unconscionable to limit their ability to do so now.

Secondly, the bill's language fails to provide a clear definition of "female athletes," which the authors assume to exclude transgender females. The language as written is vague and likely unenforceable.

It also assumes a disagreement between the Maine Human Rights Act and Title IX, both of which protect individuals from discrimination based on their gender identity. Maine has been recently found to be in non-compliance with Title IX by the federal government, but that complaint lacked any legal citation supporting the administration's position, resting solely on an executive order which lacks the force of law, and will likely be adjudicated by a higher court. As the state of Maine is very likely to prevail in this dispute, this bill is not only premature but would likely have no effect with regard to the participation of transgender female athletes in sports.

Lastly, this bill is motivated solely by animus towards transgender individuals and seeks to deny them their basic human rights. Every Maine citizen, regardless of their gender expression, should be afforded the same protections under the law. It is both amoral and discriminatory to deny someone access to necessary resources based on their gender identity.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reject LD 1337. Every Maine citizen, regardless of their gender identity, deserves equal access to emergency shelter and protection under the law. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred McCann