

Meghan Gardner

Orono, Maine

May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Meghan Gardner, and I live in Orono, Maine. I am a parent, an advocate, and a former athlete, and I am writing in strong opposition to LD 1134.

This bill would ban transgender girls from school sports and from using facilities designated “for females” — a phrase so vague it could include bathrooms, locker rooms, and other shared spaces. This kind of legislation is not just discriminatory. It is dangerous.

As a parent of a young girl who plays sports alongside transgender teammates, I know firsthand that trans girls are not a threat. They are part of the team. They are children. This bill is a solution in search of a problem, and it creates far more problems than it claims to solve.

We have seen what happens when so-called “bathroom bans” are passed: people feel empowered to police others’ bodies. Cisgender girls and women who don’t conform to someone else’s idea of femininity get harassed, shouted at, sometimes physically threatened or assaulted. There are documented cases of cisgender women being accused of being trans simply because they were too tall, too strong, or didn’t “look right.” That’s not safety. That’s gender-based harassment.

Even more concerning, this bill creates cover for the very thing it claims to prevent. A cisgender man who wants to enter women’s spaces today can already do so. And too often, our justice system fails to hold them accountable. But under policies like this one, someone with bad intentions could just claim to be checking whether someone else “belongs,” which is not only traumatizing, but could amount to sexual harassment or assault.

LD 1134 won’t protect girls. It will embolden bullies. It will turn schools into places of surveillance and suspicion. It will put girls like my daughter and her friends—transgender, cisgender, and nonbinary alike—at greater risk.

Maine already has guidelines that ensure fairness in sports and protect students under the Maine Human Rights Act, which has included gender identity since 2005. This bill violates those protections, and it likely violates Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination and does not support a blanket ban on trans athletes or access to facilities.

I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1134. This is not how we keep kids safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Meghan Gardner