

Alisha Heal  
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Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Alisha Heal and I am a resident of Kennebunk Maine, clinical social worker, parent and concerned citizen. I am offering written testimony against LD 1337. I am proud to live in a state that values respect and dignity of all its citizens. This bill attempts to undermine the Maine Human Rights Act that Maine voters and lawmakers affirmed in 2005. For the last 15 years, Maine has been committed to providing a safe, inclusive state for all its citizens and especially its children, which includes trans children in sports. This bill seeks to change protections afforded to Maine athletes which will specifically impact our children in school. Sports in school have historically been a safe haven for youth to come together, be accepted, move their bodies and find joy. Instead, LD 1337 is merely another form of discrimination, seeking to prevent trans students from participating in sports. Bills like this do not protect female students, but create an invasive environment of body policing in which students must prove their gender and sex status, a direct violation of Mainer's values around body autonomy. In short, the bills being presented this session are all versions of the same song and dance: discriminatory, body policing impacting Maine's youth. I urge you to vote against LD 1337 and protect all Maine's citizens.