

Sarah Shepro
Portland
LD 868

Good morning honorable members of the Judiciary committee,

I'm writing to strongly oppose LD 868 and the other antri-trans bills being heard by the committee today. These bills are nothing more than an unjustified attempt to systematically erase trans people.

This bill not only enables but encourages discrimination against trans people. It reinforces a hierarchy based on gender, which is harmful to everyone. This opens the door for harassment of all girls and women in sports and female-specific spaces, which does not keep girls and women safe, as this bill claims.

Additionally, allowing cisgender people to threaten legal action against trans people, or anyone they suspect is trans, is a dangerous back slide towards policies that outright criminalize the existence of certain people in certain spaces. There is no justification for such a dangerous policy.

As a cisgender woman, I have never once felt threatened by sharing spaces with trans women or people who identify as nonbinary. I shared an apartment with two other women for a year, one trans and one cis. At no point did I ever even feel uncomfortable with having a trans roommate. On the other hand, I often feel uncomfortable around cisgender men, because we are still living in a country that values traditional masculinity and other patriarchal infrastructure, which continues to harm many. And yet, I still manage to respect them in public spaces.

Banning transgender girls and women from female sports and spaces does not make me feel safe and does not ensure me an equitable experience. In fact, bills like this - like bills to defund reproductive care, like bills to restrict voting rights, like bills to eradicate DEI - make me feel unsafe. These policies are the threat women face to having equitable opportunities, not other women. There is nothing to be gained by separating some women from others because they were or weren't born with certain genitals, and there is everything to lose.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah