

Michael Levey
Winthrop
LD 1134

To the chairs and the members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Michael Levey, from Winthrop, Maine. I am pleased to provide testimony. I oppose LD 1134.

I believe that a prohibiting a transgendered student from using a restroom, or locker room which conforms to that student's gender identity is unnecessary and can cause great harm. I can think of no fact-based evidence which shows that restroom/locker room misconduct is caused more by transgendered students than any other students. Misconduct does not occur because of identity. Misconduct occurs when a student of any gender acts improperly.

I further believe that such a prohibition supports and perpetuates the stereotype and prejudicial belief that there is something wrong with a transgendered person. It increases the risk of acts of harassment, bullying and shaming. Our schools should be places where all of our students, regardless of identity, are treated well, and given a safe opportunity to learn.

I further believe that a prohibition against a transgendered girl from participating in girls sports is a one-size-fits all approach to a situation which is not necessarily uniform. Some transgendered girls may have superior skills based upon physical characteristics. And, some may not. I believe there are transgendered girl athletes who are not the best in their sport. I believe that our local school officials, selected by our elected school committees, should use science, use facts, and use their expertise to come up with policies which are based upon thoughtful consideration, a far better approach than a legislative one-size fits all approach.

Further, I am concerned that this subject matter is being used as an indirect way to encourage and support prejudice and discrimination against transgendered persons.

I thank you.