

RoseMarie Stark
Falmouth
LD 233

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is RoseMarie Stark and I live in Falmouth, Maine. I am now retired, but was a longtime educator and superintendent of schools. I am a parent to two wonderful children and grandparent of five beautiful children. From my many decades of work and life experience, I know that schools must provide a safe, supportive, and caring environment for all children, including transgender children, to enable them to achieve their greatest potential. Schools must be places for all our children to be respected for who they are and to have every opportunity to develop the life skills that are best developed through playing sports, being on team, and participating in extracurricular activities. Maine has done an excellent job, through its laws and its respectful leadership, to promote participation in sports for all students, including transgender students. This is so important and I strongly hope the Judiciary Committee will vote against all of these bills that would roll back the protections transgender students have. We are proud to be Mainers and proud of you who uphold these freedoms. All of America and the free world are watching what will happen in Maine—please continue to protect the freedoms of all children, including transgender children. Please ensure that transgender students can participate on the team that aligns with their gender identity (and can use the locker room, bathroom, and all facilities, that align with their gender identity). Please vote ought not to pass/do not forward these bills.