

Kim Michel  
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LD 868

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Kim Michel, I'm a resident of Waldoboro testifying in opposition to LD868. Schools are supposed to be supportive environments where students' learning and participation in sports and extracurricular activities are the primary goal. Excluding certain students from sports or from using the restroom that aligns with their gender would be a violation of the Maine Human Rights act, which has offered protections based on gender identity since 2005. In order to enforce such a bill, Maine students could be subject to invasive processes to prove their gender in order to participate in extracurricular activities or even use the restroom at school, a basic human need. This bill, if passed, would violate the privacy of all students and especially girls participating in sports and would create an atmosphere of fear and distrust in Maine schools. Such a ban could embolden spectators and community members to bully and harass students not conforming to certain outdated and limited ideas of how a girl "should" look. Please keep Maine schools inclusive and safe for all students by voting "ought not to pass" on LD 868. Thank you.