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LD 233

When I was in sixth grade, a new girl moved to town, and she was faster than the rest of the class, by far, in the fifty-yard dash — 6.0 seconds. I remember it well — none of we boys could believe it.

Maybe faster and taller and bigger kids should be prevented from competing against slower and shorter and smaller kids.

Cultural warriors in the U.S., having lost on gay marriage, have now figured out a new way to agitate and activate their base — target the tiny vulnerable minority of trans folks, on the pretext of protecting girls and women. This also provides very useful distraction, from the takeover of our democracy by the richest few people in the history of the world.

Do you, as thinking legislators, really believe a boy or man would go through hormonal and other treatments, for the purpose of winning athletic competitions? To me, that idea seems laughable.

We have a long and ongoing history of targeting vulnerable groups, to build political power — from imprisoning Japanese Americans in WWII, to criminalizing being gay, to of course our sordid history of Jim Crow, slavery, and genocide of the original inhabitants of this continent.

I'm the father of a trans daughter who was a top student in her large Maine high school, who was admitted to several of the most selective colleges in the country. She's now contemplating emigrating, because of the neo-McCarthyite hysteria focused on trans Americans — even in Maine, which we try to assure her will stay safe, for her.

I'm a physician who sees, as a matter of course, a trans adult patient at least once a month or so, who are in my office for non-gender related care. I hope they are relieved that my hospital badge lanyard is a rainbow ribbon. I usually mention, in these appointments, that I have a trans child.

I urge the Legislature to protect the health and safety of vulnerable folks like my trans daughter and my trans patients. Please don't cave in to the culture warriors, many of whom I fear may not even realize how they are being used by the rich and powerful. We've been here before, and we regret those outcomes, in our history.

Pope Francis made sure that trans folks would be included in his funeral. Don't take steps backward in Maine — protect trans Mainers, of all ages.