

Carol Horne
Appleton
LD 233

To the Chairs and members of the Committee on Judiciary:

As a resident of Maine, I respectfully urge you to uphold Maine values and nondiscrimination of gender by voting against and rejecting LDs 1134, 868, 1002, 1704 and 233. Banning trans girls from school sports directly violates our state's values, which are reflected in the Maine Human Rights Act. I hope you will stand by Maine's longstanding commitment to freedom, privacy, and bodily autonomy by opposing these harmful measures.

Maine law reflects Maine values. The Maine Human Rights Act was first adopted in 1971. It was expanded in 2005 to include gender identity under the definition of sexual orientation, ensuring all students can participate fully in school life – including school sports – without fear of discrimination. A referendum to repeal this expansion in 2005 was defeated by 20 points. This reflects Maine's strong commitment to providing safe, inclusive environments for all children.

Trans athlete bans undermine these longstanding protections – which were passed by Maine lawmakers and reaffirmed by Maine voters. LDs 1134, 868, 1002, 1704 and 233 open the door to invasive scrutiny of children's bodies based on how they look or are perceived. This would create harmful, humiliating and exclusionary school climates.

Banning trans girls from playing school sports would be a blatant and dangerous rollback of the values our state has championed for decades. We cannot afford to open the door to attacks on our right to live authentically and control our own bodies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Horne Appleton, Maine