

Jenny Minard
Sullivan
LD 1704

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Jenny Minard and I am a resident of Sullivan, Maine in Hancock County.

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the following bills being heard on 5/8/2025. I oppose LD 233, LD 380, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432 and LD 1704. All these bills discriminate against transgender athletes.

I am not transgender, and I do not have any transgender people in my family- this does not mean that I cannot imagine how these bills will negatively affect individuals who are just trying to live their lives and be part of the communities where they live. Right now there are more politicians trying to capitalize on this issue than there are actual transgender athletes. I would encourage everyone to look beyond their fears about what they don't know, or understand, and actually think about the athletes. All of the athletes. I know inclusion and building solutions is hard. It's certainly harder than just excluding. I have faith in Mainers' ability to think independently, and work together in community, and I know there is a better solution that can support all our athletes.

I played sports all through my youth. I am 5 feet tall now, and was always one of the smallest players on any team, in any sport I played. Should the taller girls, or heavier girls been excluded because they might have hurt me? Should I have been excluded because I was so much smaller? I don't know because it literally never occurred to anyone to bring it up. One year I played on a boys soccer team because we didn't have girls soccer at that school. Should I have been excluded? Should all the boys have been excluded and I play by myself? Do you see how ridiculous this is?

Keeping all athletes safe is of course so important. I think that the people working with the individual athletes are the ones we should be relying on. Most of my coaches growing up were good; one coach I had was exceptional. Her teams were always so strong because she taught us to work together, and she insisted we all get along on the field, in the bus, and in the locker room. We treated each other with respect because it was not negotiable. Her leadership was fair and strong, and it made us fair and strong. I wish we had more leaders like her.

While I am not transgender, I am a woman, and I have 50 years of experience with lawmakers misguided attempts to protect women. There are many ways I might suggest our leaders work to protect women and their rights; discriminating against transgender athletes is not one of them.

Sincerely,
Jenny Minard
Sullivan, Maine