

Testimony in **opposition** to LDs

#233, An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School • #868, An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools • #1002, An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate • #1134, An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities • #1704, An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex • #1337, An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters • #1432, An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act, & #380 An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary
of the 132nd Maine Legislature, First Regular Session
by Allison Long of Buckfield
Thursday, May 8th, 2025

Greetings Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Allison Long and I live in Buckfield, Maine. I am a former public educator; a current school board member; a parent of two young athletes, a daughter and a son; and friend to several beautiful and courageous transgender and nonbinary people. I offer this testimony on behalf of myself only, and not for any organization or group.

These bills are, to quote author Patti Digh in a recent piece, "petty cruelty disguised as protocol". Rest assured they are not, at the core, about sports or shelters or bathrooms: These bills seek to dehumanize and segregate a group of people that Maine law, and the tenants of common decency, require us to protect and honor.

To be clear: Trans women are women. Trans girls are girls. Trans men are men, and trans boys are boys. Trans people are not "confused" or "dressing up" or "pretending." And policing gender in any and all of these areas puts ALL people at risk.

How do we purport to verify someone's sex assigned at birth in these situations? How many resources will be spent policing these laws?

Will we be conducting genital inspections? This terrifying prospect violates so many laws and boundaries that I cannot fathom a Maine where it is an actual practice.

Are we considering genetic testing? Until 25 years ago, female athletes competing in the Olympics were given genetic tests to determine their “gender”. Olympic officials stopped this foolishness because, as the Yale School of Medicine explains, “gender verification tests are difficult, expensive, and potentially inaccurate,” in fact, the tests so often “resulted in substantial harm for women athletes born with relatively rare genetic abnormalities that affect the development of testes and ovaries, or the expression of secondary sexual characteristics.” That is, “cisgender” women were too often finding out how biological sex is not, in fact, as binary as proponents of these bills would have you believe.¹

People of all genders get gender affirming medical care. Will healthcare providers and their patients face consequences for hair replacement procedures, breast reconstructions after mastectomies, and hormone replacement for menopause?

Are we really considering putting all girls and women at risk of having their appearance questioned in order for us to participate in daily life in Maine?

Our genitals are no one else’s business. Our biological information is no one else’s business. Our sex assigned at birth is certainly no one else’s business. Trans people just want to live in peace: Each of these cruel bills would make that much, much harder for them, and would violate the rights of cisgender people as well.

I will end with this: I sincerely hope that each and every one of you has the distinct privilege of having a trans person in your life that you deeply love and care about. Please LISTEN to them. Learn about their tremendous courage: Appreciate the fear and apprehension that they must push through daily in order to merely exist. Do not, as lawmakers of our inclusive and freedom-loving state, contribute to this persecution. Reject these terrible bills and vote Ought Not To Pass for all of them. Thank you.

¹ [“Decision to Abolish Gender Testing at Sydney Olympics Supported By Yale Physician.”](#) September 29, 2000