

Aubrey Bell
Norway
LD 868

Lyn Bell
Norway, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

My name is Lyn Bell. I'm a resident of Norway. I served my country and my community until my retirements as a Marine and a deputy sheriff. I have continued to serve locally as a teacher, and an elected official in Oxford County.

I write as a representative of the First Universalist Church of Norway, and I am the parent of a transgender child.

I am writing in opposition to the bills before the committee today, specifically LD 868.

In your haste to exclude transgender women from single sex spaces, you are creating an ungovernable system in which the women you say you are protecting, will be violated.

As I write this, two Cisgender women (denoting or relating to a person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex registered for them at birth; not transgender.) were "forcibly removed from a Boston Hotel bathroom May 6 after one was ordered to "prove" her sex," according to the local CBS affiliate. We saw the vilification of female boxer Imane Khelif at the Paris Olympics, and in February a woman was pulled from a bathroom in Arizona and detained by police until she was forced to expose herself to prove her identity. These are just a few that have made national news.

Passage of LD 868 will require female athletes to needless verifications of their secondary sexual traits. It will cause unnecessary intrusion on those who have conditions that cause heavier weight, taller heights, and thicker body hair. It also lacks clarification for those who are intersexed, which affects nearly two percent of the population.

These measures bring bullying on students that are already facing criticism, as they navigate their identity. The authors and supporters of this bill need to seek an education on the intricacies of biology, rather than rushing to instigate violence against this marginalized minority group. The authors and supporters need to learn compassion for their constituents.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you,
Lyn Bell
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