

Dawn Nuding
Lamoine
LD 868

Dawn Nuding, LCPC, ATR ^{[[1]]}_{SEP} Lamoine Maine
May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Dawn Nuding. I'm a resident of Lamoine and I am submitting testimony in opposition of all of the bills before the committee today.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Dawn Nuding. I'm a resident of Lamoine and I am submitting testimony in opposition of all of the anti-trans bills before the committee today.

For the past thirteen years I have worked in private practice as an Art Therapist and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, primarily with school aged youth and families. My caseload has included many people who are transgender and who identify as, non-binary and gender fluid. As a professional in the field, I know that the mental health of marginalized communities is statistically more at risk for higher rates of depression, anxiety and suicidal thinking, and I have certainly seen evidence of that in the clients I work with. I have also seen how affirming spaces, inclusion in community activities like sports and access to safe, affirming healthcare can increase resiliency exponentially. This resiliency is what strengthens the mental wellness of all populations. As part of our community, trans people deserve access to those basic resources.

We have many essential safeguards to protect human rights in our state and our country including constitutional guarantees of equal protection and Title IX. Undoing or undermining those safeguards with bills like those before you today would be a step backwards in the fundamental rights of our state. I particularly worry that these bills suggest they are improving the protection of vulnerable populations like children and female athletes, when they are actually exploiting these populations to promote discriminatory and bigoted political views.

Trans people exist, and are undeniably part of our community. Banning access to resources or limiting the rights and protections of anyone in our community will cause widespread harm to the entire population. Our goal should be to move forward as a state, rather than backward. Vote against these bills to protect all citizens of Maine. Thank you for your consideration.

Dawn Nuding