

Jon McQuarrie
Linneus
LD 233

To the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in firm and unequivocal opposition to all of the anti-trans legislation currently before this committee, including, but not limited to, LD 233, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432, LD 380, LD 868, and HP 500.

These bills are not about fairness, safety, or protecting children; they are about control, fear, and exclusion. They seek to erase the rights and dignity of transgender people, particularly youth, under the false pretense of public interest.

In particular, I want to respond to testimony submitted by Mr. McClellan in support of LD 233. His remarks contained several deeply misleading claims that must not go unchallenged:

1. Misrepresentation of Medical Standards

Mr. McClellan references the DSM-5 to argue that being transgender is a mental illness. That is simply false. The current edition, DSM-5-TR, uses the term gender dysphoria, not “transgenderism,” and only for the purpose of ensuring access to gender-affirming care. Being transgender is not a disorder, and misrepresenting this to justify discrimination is both dishonest and harmful.

2. Dangerous Disinformation About Suicide

He also cites a conspiracy website, newstarget.com, claiming that gender-affirming surgeries lead to a twelvefold increase in suicide risk. This is reckless and wrong. The actual scientific consensus is clear: access to gender-affirming care reduces suicide risk, depression, and anxiety. To claim otherwise puts lives at risk.

3. Weaponized Anecdotes

The testimony cites a volleyball injury to argue against the inclusion of trans girls in sports. This single, poorly documented event has been widely misrepresented; and even if accurate, public policy should never be based on isolated anecdotes or fearmongering. It should be rooted in fact, fairness, and compassion.

4. False Claims of Public Support

Stating that “65–80%” of Americans support this legislation without citing any credible source is disingenuous. Reliable polling shows growing public support for trans rights, particularly among younger generations. Bigotry is not made just by popularity.

5. The “Special Rights” Fallacy

Trans youth are not asking for “special” rights. They are asking for the same opportunities, the same protections, and the same dignity as everyone else. These bills don’t level the playing field; they remove it entirely.

Let me be clear: these laws are not protecting girls, sports, or society. They are targeting a small, vulnerable group of children and using them as scapegoats in a broader culture war. That is not leadership. That is cowardice.

You have a choice: follow fear and misinformation, or stand up for facts, fairness, and the basic human rights of Maine’s transgender residents, especially its youth.

Please reject LD 233, and reject every bill that seeks to marginalize trans people in this state.

Sincerely,
Jon McQuarrie
Linneus, Maine