

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY JAYLYN WESTENBROEK

Maine Joint Committee on Judiciary LD 868, An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools

May 8, 2025

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jaylyn Westenbroek, and I am an ambassador for Independent Women, an alumna of the University of Wyoming, and a former member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Today, I am sharing my story to express my strong support for Maine LD 868, An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools.

When I joined Kappa Kappa Gamma, I found more than a sorority, I found a home. My sisters were there for me during a difficult time in my freshman year, and their kindness inspired me to rush. For a while, it was the best decision I had ever made. I made lifelong friends, gained valuable leadership experience, and felt a strong sense of belonging in our women-only community.

That sense of safety and sisterhood began to fall apart in the fall of 2022, when our chapter admitted a male. Despite assurances from sorority leadership that this individual would not live in the house if anyone felt uncomfortable, those promises were broken. When my sisters and I voiced our concerns, we were dismissed, silenced, and, ultimately, pushed out.

The sorority house was supposed to be a safe space, a haven where women could support each other without fear or discomfort. But with the presence of a male in our home, that safety was compromised. Many of us felt uncomfortable, but leadership pressured us to accept the situation, labeling anyone who objected as “transphobic.” Efforts to request a revote were shut down, and those of us who stood up for our concerns faced retaliation.

Eventually, I was forced to resign my membership after being told that I wasn’t a “true Kappa” for advocating for the sorority’s original mission: a sisterhood for women. It was a heartbreaking decision to leave behind the

community I had poured my time, effort, and heart into, but I couldn't stay silent in the face of such injustice.

LD 868 is essential for protecting the integrity of female-only spaces. By defining sex-based terms such as "female" and "male," this bill ensures that spaces designed for women remain safe, supportive, and fair. It's about protecting women's spaces, from sports teams to shelters, where privacy and safety are paramount.

I urge this committee to pass LD 868 and take a stand for the safety, dignity, and rights of women and girls in Maine. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jaylyn Westenbroek
Ambassador
Independent Women