

## **TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY MADDIE RAMAR**

### **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 Maddie Ramar. I am an ambassador for Independent Women, a nursing student at the University of Wyoming and a proud member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. I am writing in support of 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 was looking for a community of women, a sisterhood where I could feel supported and safe. For a time, that's exactly what I found. Living in a women-only sorority house provided a sanctuary during a stressful and formative time in my life. It was a place where my friends and I could grow, bond, and support each other, free from the pressures and concerns that often arise in mixed-sex spaces.

But that sense of safety and belonging was disrupted in the fall of 2022 when my sorority admitted a male student. Despite initial assurances from leadership that this individual would not be allowed to join, the decision was reversed, and active members were pressured to vote for his admission. Those of us who raised concerns were labeled as "transphobic."

This male student shared our living space, and while we tried to maintain a sense of normalcy, his presence has fundamentally changed the environment. He is physically larger than the rest of us, and many of my sisters feel uncomfortable and unsafe in what is supposed to be our home.

Women's organizations like Kappa Kappa Gamma were created to provide spaces where women can thrive, free from concerns about privacy and safety. Female-only spaces are not just about tradition; they are about creating environments where women can feel secure, supported, and empowered.

When my sisters and I sought legal action to protect our female space, the Federal Judge dismissed our case, citing "the court will not define 'woman' today."

LD 868 is essential for ensuring your judges have clarity on the most basic sex-based terms so they can appropriately interpret your statutes. By clearly defining sex-based terms such as “female” and “male,” this bill ensures that women’s private spaces and opportunities are protected for females. It provides clarity and consistency in Maine law, ensuring that policies cannot be twisted to compromise the rights of women and girls.

My story is not unique. Across the country, women’s spaces and organizations are being challenged in ways that disregard the importance of biological reality. This issue is bigger than just one sorority; it’s about preserving the right of all women to have safe and private spaces, whether in sports, shelters, or student housing.

I urge this committee to pass Maine LD 868 and take a stand for fairness, safety, and common sense. Women’s spaces matter, and they are worth protecting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maddie Ramar  
*Ambassador*  
*Independent Women*