

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY HANNAH HOLTMEIER

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 Hannah Holtmeier. I am an Independent Women's ambassador and senior at the University of Nebraska and member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. I am writing to you today to urge you to support Maine LD 868, An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools.

In the fall of 2022, my sorority sisters and I were forced into a situation that I can confidently say none of us wanted to be in. Without our consent, we were forced to share a sorority house with a grown man. Since then, we have been working to tell our story and help women across the country in similar situations find justice.

I believe that everyone deserves a safe space. A space where they can relax and open up to others who understand them. For me, that space was my sorority house. For other women, that space is in the locker room or on the court with their team.

When men start to infiltrate these spaces, women are exposed to and forced into uncomfortable situations. I imagine every one of you has a female in your life that you care about ... now imagine you get a call from that woman saying that she is forced to share her college housing (or any private space) with a man. That's the call my dad got back in 2022 ... one call he never imagined he'd be getting from me. We were all just college girls who were promised a female-only sorority experience, and we were suddenly forced to share our private space with a male.

I share my experience today to qualify why it is so important for this committee to pass LD 868. If passed into law, this bill would protect women's hard-earned rights and spaces. By defining common sex-based words—words like 'woman' and 'female' already used in 43 unique Maine state statutes—this bill will help safeguard female opportunities and private spaces from attack by those who seek to manipulate the definition of words to achieve policies that lack political support.

You must support this bill and stand with the over 690,000 women and girls in Maine. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hannah Holtmeier
Ambassador
Independent Women