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LD 1134

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Evonne McCain. I am a resident of Portland, and I am writing as a parent of a Trans daughter. I oppose all of the bills before the committee today. These bills are dangerous to the health, safety, and equal protection of all Mainers.

My daughter has been an athlete her whole life and when she came out as Trans, we were fortunate to have a supportive community that worked to create an environment for her where she could continue to compete. She found acceptance and community in athletics. The rules for athletic participation that have already been created by the Maine Principal's Association are appropriate and protect the rights of all student athletes in Maine. Passing these bills undermines the work that educational professionals have already done to ensure an even and accessible playing field for all students.

Even with a supportive atmosphere, my daughter has faced bullying and lived in fear of being harassed because of who she is. Being Trans was never a choice for her. It is who she has always been. Being able to compete as her authentic self and use restroom facilities that match her identity, have allowed her a modicum of safety in a world that feels increasingly dangerous for her. School field trips were accessible to her, because the school allowed students to choose the sleeping arrangements that best aligned with their identities. Everyone had the opportunity to participate, and to feel safe and comfortable. If she had been forced to sleep "with the boys" based on her "biological sex", she would not have gone on the trips because she would not have felt safe or comfortable using the facilities that do not align with her gender identity.

These bills are discriminatory and deny transgender people the opportunity to succeed in school, in athletics, have equal access to facilities, and ultimately, prepare for their future.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you.