

Patricia Goodhines
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LD 1337

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

As a clinical psychologist, I know that LD 1337 and similar bills would be simply devastating to Maine communities. We know that anti-trans legislation such as facilities and sports bans cause depression and suicide in trans people and especially youth, and makes them targets of bullying and life-threatening violence. Bills like this are quite literally a matter of life or death for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. We are better than this.

Are you comfortable gambling with Mainers' lives for the sake of an anti-trans political agenda? Because bans like this have far-reaching and damaging effects for ALL Mainers, not just trans Mainers. Gender-based facilities and sports bans empower policing of adherence to gender norms, which unfairly scrutinizes girls' and women's bodies especially. These bans would invite any person to call for an invasive or traumatizing "gender check" on anyone who is determined not masculine/feminine "enough." If you claim to care about the safety of girls and women especially, you must NOT support this invasive bill.

Maine has long been considered a leader in human rights legislation, and now we must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Any attempt to enforce this bill would blatantly violate our privacy and safety. Further, bills that discriminate against transgender athletes violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. They will open the door and set a dangerous precedent for more extreme anti-trans legislation, further endangering Mainers. LD 1337 is simply discriminatory on the basis of sex and it is NOT constitutional.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. Changes to Maine law are unnecessary, and help no one--but the risk of harms is substantial. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on LD 1337 and similar bills today. Thank you.