

Jessica Downs
Lisbon
LD 1704

Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. As a parent I know that these bills would leave ALL girls vulnerable to scrutiny and harassment.^[1]_{SEP} These bans empower schools to engage in policing adherence to gender norms, which unfairly scrutinizes girls' bodies, and have been shown to affect girls of color even more. These bans will cause fear, distrust, and confusion for students, families, and educators.

When will the discrimination end? Trans community, gay community, women, people of color, the poor, the old.... Just let people be who they want to be when they are not hurting others. They are people who just want to live their lives, to be themselves, and to live free of fear.