

Representative Pugh, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is \_\_Joanne Sterling\_\_. I am a resident of \_Peaks Island and am testifying in opposition to LD 1134. I submit this as a member of my Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, which affirms and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I am a member of New Brackett Church and MUUSAN, the Maine UU State Advocacy Network which supports legislation that embodies these values.

- I believe LD 1134 should NOT become law because it is unconstitutional to ban trans people from playing sports. Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection
- Title IX prohibits sex discrimination and does not require a prohibition on transgender or intersex athletes.
- I know some trans children on the Peaks Island and I want them to thrive and know that they are loved and supported in their school and community. These bills unnecessarily call out trans children for political gain and traumatize all trans school children.
- These bills would embolden sports spectators, members of the public, and students to harass and scrutinize girls who may not conform to stereotypical feminine appearances. If these bills pass, they will become another weapon for bullies to use against all young people in Maine.
- **This legislation will actively harm all youth in sports, and would promote cruelty instead of fairness.** It will sow fear, distrust and confusion in schools across the state, and put a target on the backs of a small group of vulnerable students who already receive a great deal of hostility.

I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1134.

Thank you,

Joanne Sterling