

May 8, 2025

To: Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Chairs: Senator Anne Carey and Representative Amy Kuhn

RE: May 8, 2025 Hearings on 8 Anti-Trans Bills

Dear Senator Carey and Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing this letter to urge you to vote **Ought Not To Pass on LDs 288, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432, and 380**. These bills, both individually and collectively are an assault to the rights and wellbeing of transgender people, including children in our state, and pose potential harm to all residents.

These bills are being promoted as intending to provide safety and protection to women and children as a way to garner support and continue to spread the hateful messaging coming from the federal administration and national anti-trans groups in order to continue to roll back the civil rights and protections of LGBTQ+ individuals and women. **LDs 233, 868, 1134, 1704, and 1337 are all focused on the same agenda of creating exclusionary policies to prohibit trans children and adults from participating in sports or using a bathroom that matches their identity.**

Creating policies such as these does not improve safety or fairness for anyone, but in fact research shows it has the opposite effect. One study by [Harvard School of Public Health \(2019\)](#) showed that LGBTQ teens faced a higher risk of sexual assault when forced to use a bathroom that did not align with their gender identity. In other states we are seeing stories of both trans and cisgender people being harassed and questioned, and even some instances of police being called for using a bathroom. These bills also open up the possibility of absurd and harmful gender check requirements for any girls who wants to play a sport, leading to trauma, and even potential sexual assault. These bills embolden bullies to harass people who do not conform to what they believe to be typical gender roles, resulting in more cases of harassment and potential for increased violence in our communities. Any attempt at enforcing these rules is a complete violation of privacy rights and are likely to disproportionately impact people of color even more. As a parent, I cannot imagine telling my children they cannot play a sport, a healthy, prosocial activity for young people, without submitting to a "gender check". As a human, I cannot imagine having to prove my identity to use a public bathroom.

Two bills are being proposed in the name of "parents rights" which is also a national narrative that will cause more harm than good. **LD 380 and LD 1002 would result in restrictions to teachers and medical professionals**, and even the possibility of lawsuits and criminal charges against them for doing their jobs and listening to their students/patients wishes. As a parent, I hope that my children's teachers listen to them and do what they think is best for their well being as professionals. Teachers and healthcare providers are already strapped and do not need ridiculous restrictions such as these to add to their plates.

Suicide is a leading cause of death among young people, and LGBTQ+ young people are four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers. In fact, a [2022 Trevor Project survey](#) found that 45% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide. Bills like these tell our LGBTQ+ youth that they don't matter. When LGBTQ+ students have a supportive community, and access to gender affirming spaces they are far less likely to attempt suicide. By implementing these bills we risk creating a mental health crisis among our youth. However, if we stand against this nonsense and reject these bills, we send the message to our young people that they matter, that they are valued.

Furthermore, these bills violate both state and federal laws. Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex, and **the Maine Human Rights Act includes protections against discrimination based on gender identity since 2005**. This is why **LD 1432 is trying to remove gender identity protections** from this law so that these discriminatory bills could be passed. If passed, it would also allow the federal government to attempt to strip the State of Maine of additional federal funding that is currently protected under Maine law.

I know you will hear from many people on these bills who will use false, harmful, hateful messages to try and speak about protecting women and children. I ask you to look past this smokescreen and realize that this is actually about hate, discrimination, and a targeted, national violent attack on the civil rights of LGBTQ+ folks which will only result in more harm and violence for all of us.

For all of these reasons and many others, I urge you all to vote against these harmful bills and stand up against the federal narrative to show that Maine is committed to protecting all of our residents.

Sincerely,
Jillian Foley, MPPM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jillian Foley", with a stylized, cursive script.

Westbrook, ME