

Anna Brown
Freeport
LD 233

Testimony Opposing LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Anna Brown, I am a Freeporter, and I have two children who attend public schools. I am writing to testify in strong opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704.

These bills target transgender and non-binary students—some of the most vulnerable young people in our schools. They don't just regulate sports or facilities. They send a clear and harmful message: that transgender students are not welcome, not recognized, and not safe in their own communities.

LD 233 and LD 1134 would exclude trans girls from school sports, denying them the opportunity to learn teamwork, leadership, and confidence alongside their peers. These are opportunities every student deserves, and excluding kids because of who they are undermines the very spirit of fairness that these bills claim to protect.

LD 868 and LD 1704 go even further, trying to bar trans and non-binary students from using restrooms, locker rooms, and other “facilities” that match their identities. No student should be forced to choose between their safety and their dignity when they need to use the bathroom. These bans do not protect students—they stigmatize and endanger them.

LD 1002 would require schools to refer to students by names and genders on their birth certificates, unless bureaucratic hurdles are met. For many students, this means being misgendered and deadnamed every day. It erodes their mental health and their ability to learn in a safe environment.

The evidence is clear: when trans youth are affirmed and supported, they thrive. When they are rejected or singled out, the rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide attempts skyrocket. We are talking about real Maine children with real futures—and the decisions made in this room will shape those futures.

I am horrified to hear arguments of “gender equity” and “protection of girls” being used to advance these bills. The “protection” and “gender fairness” arguments are based on made up stories, false information, and fearmongering, and they are used to dehumanize transgendered people. As a mom, I am far more concerned at the prospect of my children grow up learning that some humans are more important and superior than others – that it is okay to degrade, invoke fear, and dehumanize people who are different.

I urge you to reject these bills and instead focus on policies that uplift all students, that ensure every child—no matter their gender identity—can go to school feeling safe, seen, and supported. That is what Maine kids deserve.

Thank you.