

Testimony against Anti-Trans Bills on May 8, 2025

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Alyssa Finn MD, and I am a resident of Bath. I am testifying on behalf of myself as a family physician who takes care of many transgender and non-binary people in my medical practice. I am writing this testimony in opposition of the anti-transgender bills before the committee on May 8, 2025.

I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impact on the health of not only our transgender and non-binary citizens, but of the health and wellness of our communities, schools, towns and cities at large if these bills were to pass. I am a family physician in Augusta, ME, and I provide gender affirming medical care for many transgender and non-binary individuals. I have witnessed the life-changing and life-affirming effects of medical care for this already vulnerable population. I have watched a 17 year old transgender male go from being depressed and anxious with little eye contact and blunt affect prior to testosterone treatment to being happy, calm, conversational with me and having a full range of emotional affect appropriate to the situation. His mom too is so happy that he is now feeling more comfortable in his body and with his appearance and that his gender dysphoria is fading because of appropriate medical treatment.

Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 are discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore are not constitutional. Regarding all the bills that intend to block transgender girls from participating in sports and using the bathroom that correlates with their gender identity, as a physician, I know that these bills would leave ALL girls vulnerable to scrutiny and harassment, not just transgender girls and non-binary individuals. These bans would invite any person to call for an invasive or traumatizing "gender check" on any girl who wants to play sports if they think she is "too tall" or "too strong." Any attempt to enforce this ban **blatantly violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls**. 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.

There are higher rates of depression, anxiety, homelessness, and suicide amongst transgender youth. If these laws were to pass, I would see much more depression and anxiety, self-injurious behavior, and even suicides amongst transgender and non-binary patients in my office. Public health in Maine is working hard to lower suicide rates, and if these laws were to pass, surely suicide rates would increase.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on all the these bills. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Finn MD
Bath, ME