

Sarah Shepro
Portland
LD 1134

Honorable members of the judiciary committee,

My name is Sarah Shepro, I'm a resident of Portland. I'm writing to strongly oppose LD1134, and the other anti-trans bills being heard by the committee today. These bills are nothing more than an unjustified attempt to systematically erase trans people.

Blanket sports ban bills are not based on evidence and do not address the very real barriers that all girls and womens face in sports, such as inequitable facilities and abusive coaches. These types of bans also encourage unnecessary surveillance on schools, parents, and children; prompting invasive questioning and scrutiny that will cause fear, distrust, and confusion.

Excluding trans girls and women for participating in teams that align with their gender identity excludes them from the proven emotional, mental, social, and physical benefits associated with sports. At the same time, this exclusion will cause even more harm to trans kids, who are already more likely to experience bullying, distress, and increased risk of self-harm or suicide. Trans kids deserve to grow up, with the same opportunities as other children.

As a cisgender woman, I have never once felt threatened by sharing spaces with trans women or people who identify as nonbinary. I shared an apartment with two other women for a year, one trans and one cis. At no point did I ever feel uncomfortable with having a trans roommate, let alone threatened.

Some will claim that banning transgender girls and women from female sports and spaces is intended to 'protect' cisgender females. This bill does not make me feel safe and does not ensure me an equitable experience. In fact, bills like this - like bills to defund reproductive care, like bills to restrict voting rights, like bills to eradicate DEI - make me feel unsafe. These policies are the threat women face to having equitable opportunities, not other women.

Thank you for your time.
Sarah Shepro