

Tyler Rukstales  
Waterville  
LD 868

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Tyler Rukstales and I am a constituent of Waterville. I am writing this testimony on behalf of my transgender peers and the community as a whole. I am testifying against LD868. I would like you all to ask yourselves: Why are you focused so heavily on such a small issue in Maine? There are very few transgender athletes in Maine, with the majority being children who are just trying to have fun. Why are you so focused on children using the restroom, and playing together in sports? How many instances have you actually heard of transgender children in changing rooms? Transgender children do not pose any serious threat to others, while there will always be outliers the majority of the transgender people I have met have been fine young men and women just trying to live their lives like anyone else. To enforce rules such as bathroom segregation and to force children to separate in sports will put children who have socially transitioned at risk. If a socially transitioned trans girl goes to the bathroom in the men's room, she will be put in danger of being bullied and assaulted. Transgender children are just trying to live their lives, as are all children and all people. Instead of focusing on invading the lives of our youth, we should focus on more pressing matters. We need more legislation protecting children from predators, abusers and school shooters. We need more funding for our schools and better education for our children. Leave the kids alone, focus your efforts on the issues that really matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on LD868