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LD 1134

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May 8th hearing on LD 868

I oppose LD 868. Besides the fact that there are very few transgender children in Maine who are participating in sports, this issue being of such great concern at a time when many kids don't have enough to eat, schools are understaffed, and online bullying is rampant, is truly disappointing.

I believe in fairness in all things, including sports, and the reality is that there is generally *no agreement* about whether or not transgender girls have any advantage over biological girls. It is unclear how much hormone therapy affects performance.

Furthermore, to link this issue to state funding as a whole seems very misguided and petty. State funding for schools is used for many many aspects of the educational system, and to link it to one very small aspect of education seems to be missing the point. Before Trump started focusing on (scapegoating, as a diversionary tactic) transgender kids, Maine Republicans were not focused on it. Trump is successfully turning the attention of these bill sponsors away from the real issues, including human rights, job security, safety, and bodily autonomy.

Transgender kids have a hard enough time. Let's not make their lives harder by banning them from all sports and shining the spotlight on them via the number of bills being heard in the Maine legislature right now.

In terms of bathrooms and other facilities, transgender kids should not be forced to use facilities meant for a gender with which they don't identify. Instead, I would like to see that those people who are uncomfortable with sharing such spaces seek out private spaces for themselves.

Thank you for your time.