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Brunswick  
LD 1704

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. Collectively, these bills target transgender and non-binary students, undermining their rights and well-being in Maine's educational institutions.

LD 233 and LD 1134 seek to prohibit transgender girls from participating in school athletic programs designated for females. Such measures not only discriminate against transgender students but also contravene the principles of inclusivity and equal opportunity that our educational system strives to uphold.

LD 868 aims to restrict access to restrooms, changing rooms, and housing based on assigned sex at birth, disregarding the affirmed gender identities of students. This bill would force transgender students into facilities that do not align with their gender identity, compromising their safety and dignity.

LD 1002 mandates that public schools use the name and gender specified on a child's birth certificate, unless legal documentation is provided. This requirement places undue burdens on students and families, potentially outing transgender students and exposing them to discrimination.

LD 1704 prohibits school administrative units from adopting policies that allow students to use restrooms corresponding to their gender identity. This bill directly targets transgender students, denying them access to safe and affirming facilities.

These legislative proposals are not only discriminatory but also detrimental to the mental health and academic success of transgender and non-binary students. I urge you to reject these bills and instead support policies that promote inclusivity, equity, and the well-being of all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.