

Jacqueline Kutvirt
Brunswick
LD 1704

Jacqueline Kutvirt
Brunswick, Maine
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 Jacqueline Kutvirt, I'm a resident of Brunswick, and I am also a public school educator. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As a public school educator, I know that these bills would leave ALL girls vulnerable to scrutiny and harassment. 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". I can speak to the current experiences of my students. Many of my trans students are scared. They are scared to be themselves, and there's no good reason for this.

Bans embolden spectators, community members, and fellow competitors to bully and harass girls by accusing them of being trans. If these bills pass, they will become another weapon for bullies to use against girls in Maine. Any attempt to enforce this ban blatantly violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls. When I was a high school athlete in the early 2000s, there was no threat of this type of discrimination. For all these years, the ground level organizations have been managing the fairness of girls sports successfully and on a case by case basis. There's no need for legislation that takes this out of the hands of the local organizations working directly with these young people.

Additionally, 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. Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination and does not require a prohibition on transgender or intersex athletes. And, the Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005. These laws protect all women and girls, and the bills being considered today are a clear threat to this protection. Finally, LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 are discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore are not constitutional. Please, let's be an example of a state where we uphold the constitution in this time where the authority of our founding documents are being challenged on all levels.

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

Thank you, again.

Jacqueline Kutvirt
Brunswick, Maine