Deb Fahy Hallowell LD 1704

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am submitting testimony in opposition to all five of the bills before the committee this morning, LD 233; LD 868; LD 1002; LD 1134; LD 1704.

I know, love and respect trans people, including my nephew, neighbors, a past co-worker and others. Trans folks are just regular Mainers, going about their lives, working and paying taxes like the rest of us. Trans people are just people.

This national trend of attacking fellow citizens should worry and concern all of us, especially when it targets children like these bills do. Trans kids are just kids. They deserve support and protection from the community.

The "anti trans girls in sports" crowd want us to believe all trans girls are elite athletes who unfairly dominate their sports. That's just silly. Kids come in all shapes and sizes, and as I pointed out previously, trans kids are just kids. What lesson are we teaching young Mainers when a whole bunch of adults act like one student losing a pole-vaulting competition to another is a life altering and future career damaging event? In high school sports? Really? I thought high school sports was all about teaching good sportsmanship and the importance of physical fitness.

Let trans kids play on teams that match their gender identity. Let them use the locker room and rest room where they feel comfortable.

It is hateful and harmful to single people out for who they are and to treat them as "other". Let's not allow it in Maine. Vote ONTP on all five of these bills.

Thank you, Deb Fahy Hallowell