

Karen Wyman
Hallowell
LD 868

Testimony of Karen Wyman of Hallowell, Maine
May 8, 2025

In Opposition to LD 868: An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics,
Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and
Postsecondary Schools

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Karen Wyman, and I'm a resident of Hallowell. Thank you for considering my testimony in strong opposition to LD 868 which would ban transgender girls from school sports. It goes further than other bills by also banning trans and non-binary students from using the bathrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identity.

This bill is founded on the idea that transgender girls are threats to other children, and this is not supported by facts. Every child needs access to safe facilities - bathrooms, locker rooms, and other spaces. These spaces are designed to afford children the necessary privacy and safety to take care of their needs and participate in the activities that they are both interested in and required to, like extra-curricular sports and physical education classes. Children might be uncomfortable in these spaces for a variety of reasons, but discomfort is different than being unsafe.

It is poor legislative policy to base law on imagined fears and false threats, which is precisely the basis here. Youth sports are a place to learn respect, teamwork, and fairness; it is hard to teach those values if policies are inherently disrespectful, divisive, and unfair.

Please do the right thing and stand up for Maine youth by voting against LD 868.

Sincerely,
Karen Wyman