

Karen Wyman
Hallowell
LD 1134

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

In Opposition to LD 1134: An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities

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 1134 which would ban any schools receiving state funding from allowing transgender girls to participate in school sports. Additionally, it would ban trans girls from using school facilities "designated for use solely by females." The bill is vague, and the meaning of "facilities" is unclear—this could potentially include a bathroom ban, taking us back more than a decade to debate an issue that has long been settled.

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. In the future, perhaps our schools will have single-stall gender-neutral restrooms and changing rooms, but until then, children should be supported to use the facilities that most closely align with their identity. It's just common sense.

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 support Maine youth and vote against LD 1134.

Sincerely,
Karen Wyman