

Sarae Pacetta
Portland
LD 233

My name is Sarae Pacetta, and I'm the parent of a transgender 17 year old. I am writing against LD233.

We left Ohio and moved to Maine almost 6 years ago so that we could live in a state that would, at the least, protect our child, and at the best, be a space where they would feel normal. This includes participating in things their peers are doing without barriers that would make them feel in the spotlight, left out, atypical - especially during these teen years when feeling typical is so important. They have participated in sports at school, and played on girls' teams, where they felt the most comfortable. I was so grateful that the school treated it like a non-issue, and so did their teammates. The rates for depression and suicidality for trans kids is high, and it was critical for us that our child's mental health be protected. There wasn't a negative impact on their teammates, and the positive impact for them was huge.

I appreciate your time with my testimony, and ask you to continue to protect this vulnerable population of children in Maine.