

Aubrey Bell  
Norway  
LD 1704

Written Testimony LD1704  
Lyn Bell  
Norway, Maine  
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

My name is Lyn Bell. I'm a resident of Norway. I served my country and my community until my retirements as a Marine and a deputy sheriff. I have continued to serve locally as a teacher, and an elected official in Oxford County.

I write as a representative of the First Universalist Church of Norway, and I am the parent of a transgender child.

I am writing in opposition to the bills before the committee today, specifically LD 1704.

I am a retired law enforcement officer so I spent my career developing probable cause, and collecting evidence to present in court. If I accused someone of a crime, then I had to present the proof. So to the authors of these bills who accuse transgender people of a litany of societal ills, I ask, where is your proof? Where are the statistics of transgender women assaulting other women in the bathrooms? There aren't any, and there aren't cases of men dressing as women to get access to their spaces because men don't bother with the ruse when they assault women.

The exclusion of transgender students from sports lacks good evidence as well. If the authors were concerned about women's sports, they would invest in them in equal measure to male athletics. Instead, they just propose invading their privacy while they insinuate that women are inherently inferior.

These bills do nothing to protect Mainers, and instead target a minority group while exposing our state to costly litigation for civil rights violations. It's time to accept the evidence. The scientific truth is trans women are women, and trans men or men, and biology is far more complex than your middle school textbooks said.

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,  
Lyn Bell  
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