

Gail Marine
Cumberland, ME
May 7, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Gail Marine, I'm a resident of Cumberland. I am writing in support of LGBTQ+ rights and their ability to freely express themselves as members of our society. I am AGAINST all of the following bills:

LD233- Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding is Provided to the School.

LD868-Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools.

LD1002-Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a child's Birth Certificate.

LD1134-Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities.

LD1704-Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use by the Opposite Sex.

LD1337-Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single Sex Shelters.

LD1432-Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act.

LD380-Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services.

As a retired educator with 33 years of experience working directly with young people in Maine, I am writing to share a message that is both deeply personal and professionally grounded: all students deserve the support, respect, and security to freely express who they are—especially our transgender youth.

During my time in education, I had the privilege of helping countless students explore their identities and develop confidence in expressing themselves authentically. I recall, in particular, a middle school student who identified as a transgender male. With the understanding and support of our school community, he was able to thrive—not only academically but personally—because he knew he was seen, valued, and safe.

That sense of safety and affirmation should never be conditional. It must be a fundamental right for every student. Schools are not just places of academic learning—they are spaces where young people build self-esteem, form their sense of identity, and learn how to navigate the world. For transgender students, this journey is often filled with unique challenges, but with the

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right support from educators and administrators, those challenges can be met with resilience and hope.

Supporting transgender students does not require special treatment—it requires fairness, dignity, and compassion. It means respecting chosen names and pronouns, ensuring safe access to facilities, and fostering inclusive policies and practices. It means training staff to understand the importance of gender identity and expression and standing firm against bullying and discrimination.

As someone who has witnessed the life-changing power of school support, I urge our educational leaders and community to reaffirm their commitment to the well-being of all students, including those who are transgender. When we create an environment where every student can be themselves without fear, we don't just support individual lives—we strengthen our entire school community.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought not Pass” on these bills. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gail Marine

Resident of Cumberland
Retired Educator
Former MSAD52 and MSAD6 Educator