

Annalise Cowing  
Kennebunk, Maine  
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. My name is Annalise Cowing, I am a resident of Kennebunk, Maine, where I attended school from Kindergarten until my graduation in 2023. I am writing this testimonial in opposition of bills LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380 appearing before the committee on May 8th, 2025.

I believe that each and every one of these bills would have lasting, harmful effects on children in Maine schools, and would in general make our school systems less safe and welcoming. From classrooms, to bathrooms, to sports, our schools should be a place that protects kids of all types from hatred and hostility. Not only do I believe some of these bills directly feed into this hatred, but I am certain that if put into place, each of these bills would foster an environment that encourages hostility instead of quenching it.

In my school career I existed in many of the spaces brought into question in these bills. I was a three sport athlete for the entirety of my High School career (with the exception of 2020 due to COVID-19 regulations). I played soccer, tennis, ran cross country and swam. I was a part of the Kennebunk Swimming Class A State Championship in 2020, and a part of the team for the Kennebunk Tennis Class A State Championship in 2022. I can unequivocally tell you that I would have had no issue competing with, sharing changing spaces, or sharing a team with transgender athletes. I know that my voice is only one among many but I hope that you hear it.

Forcing children into spaces that do not align with their gender identity is undoubtedly harmful, especially for the mental states of transgender kids. A study conducted by The Trevor Project based on a sample of more than 61,000 transgender and nonbinary youth in the US, found that suicide attempts within these groups increased by as much as 72% in states that enacted anti-transgender laws.

So, I am urging you, please, if you truly care about the safety and well-being of the children in our communities, vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to share with you today, I hope that you have a good day, and a good life.