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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Margaret Becksvoort, I am a resident of Auburn and I am writing this as a member of the Lewiston-Auburn community appalled by the blatant attack on the rights and privacy of Maine women and girls.

As a woman who grew up surrounded by the harmful effects of social pressure to conform and survived ordinary school bullying and workplace harassment, I feel that passing any of these bills would be catastrophic to not only students but to any woman of any age, emboldening bigots and woman-haters to traumatize and harm children. Anyone who supports these bills is wishing harm upon children. These bills open the door to harassment, intimidation and violence which would be detrimental to our entire population. These bills would ultimately perpetuate a great harm on all communities.

These bills seek to strip women and girls of body autonomy, a right all people should have. Not only that, they perpetuate a harmful scrutiny of female bodies. Examining others for perceived defects or arbitrary flaws, made-up standards and outdated gender norms. Where will it end? There is no place for this type of behavior in schools or in communities, period.

These bills are clearly designed to harm all women and girls. To even consider passing any of these bills is to intend harm on all women and girls. Forcing cisgender women and girls into the role of “fragile victim” who needs to be “saved” in order to perpetrate harm on transgender women and girls is abhorrent and misogynistic. Transgender women existing does not affect my life in any negative way. Transgender people have always existed and will continue to exist. These bills create problems where none existed and waste time and resources which could be put toward more important issues. To allow the ruthless desire to perpetuate harm on marginalized groups to spread and become law is an outrage which must be prevented.

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