

Gray Baldwin
Damariscotta
LD 1134

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Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Maine Judiciary Committee, my name is Gray Baldwin. I live in Damariscotta, Maine. I am a therapist of over 30 years of experience.

I am here to testify against LD 1134 An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities - Sen. Sue Bernard of Aroostook.

First, the language of this bill is inaccurate. Trans girls are girls. While I know people get very hung up on the plumbing of human bodies, it is important to recognize that there are natural variations within the human species that extend beyond male and female. Intersex people have a variety of variations of the sex characteristics which can include organs, gonads, chromosomes, and secondary sex characteristics. This view of trans girls as being males is inaccurate and outside of the understanding of science, psychology, and medicine. Trans girls are girls.

Trans girls must be allowed to play sports because it is a fundamental matter of human rights, equality, and dignity. Excluding them from sports based on their gender identity is not just unjust, it's an outright denial of their right to participate fully in society. Trans girls deserve the same opportunities as any other girl to experience the joy, confidence, and empowerment that come from athletic participation. All children should be allowed to play sports freely.

Denying them the chance to compete is not only discriminatory, it perpetuates harmful stereotypes that undermine the reality that trans girls are girls, and their identities deserve to be respected. Sports are about more than competition—they're about building resilience, fostering community, and supporting mental and physical well-being. To deny trans girls this opportunity is to rob them of these critical benefits.

Inclusion in sports isn't a "privilege," it's a basic human right. We must stand for a world where trans girls are allowed to thrive, not just in sports, but in every area of life. Equality is not negotiable.