

Rachael Amber Longo
Denmark, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee and be an active member of this community.

My name is Rachael Amber Longo, I'm a permanent resident of Denmark, Maine, where I own and operate my business Cyclical Roots LLC.

I write to you today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

When I read the handful of bills I do not see "equity and safety" as LD 868 proposes, or "an act to protect children's identification" as LD 1002 claims. Instead I see between the lines a proposal of "I only want safety for my/some/these children, not all children."

I see the personal fears and misunderstandings of some threatening the entire livelihood of the LGBTQ+ community, which has been historically marginalized, oppressed, and attempted to be erased. As a member of this community and with many beloved queer and transgender family and friends in my life, it's insulting to see the daily lives of so many being impacted at a foundational level - where their humanity is being questioned and debated, taking immeasurable tolls on one's psychological and physical health. How is a society meant to function when the most fundamental of human needs - to be accepted and belong - is not being met? This concerns all of us.

Frankly, the discrimination and gaslighting of transgender women's validity is a danger to all women and people raised as and assumed to be women everywhere - because if we are being scrutinized and grouped by our biological functions and anatomy, we are being dehumanized, reduced and sexualized.

I see these bills as an invasion of privacy and a history of not respecting the autonomy and identity of human beings. I see these bills as a gross reduction to bodily anatomy and sexualization of *students and*

children; it's quite disturbing to be so focused on whether or not the genitalia a *child* has matches what is expected of a group's, rather than who they actually are as a person.

It is factual that transgender people have always existed, and will always exist. Therefore, attempts to exclude them from the recreation of sports and other group activities is blatant discrimination and goes against the constitutional rights of these American citizens.

It is imperative that Maine stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws, especially when these bills discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. Bills LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 are discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore are not constitutional.

Additionally, if the Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005, there is no reason to go backwards today in 2025.

If these bills were to pass it would be detrimental to the community I hold dear and am a part of. Spending our limited time and energy fighting for basic rights is exhausting and affects the ability to show up as a mentally and physically well citizen who contributes to the economy and livelihood of the state of Maine and everyone in it.

I'm grateful for this opportunity to share my perspective with you, Committee members. Your time and attention is appreciated, and from my heart to yours, I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you, and be well.

Sincerely,
Rachael Amber Longo