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As a citizen of the state of Maine, I find it abhorrent that we are excluding trans students from cis activities in order to "protect" females. Notice how no discussion is being made about "protecting" cis males from trans students in competition? The truth is, trans students are at a higher risk of suicide than cis students. Research has proven that it is not because they are "mentally ill" but because they feel ostracized and bullied by cis students and adults. Unaccepted. When they are accepted or when they have gender affirming surgery that allows them to more closely pass for the gender they identify as, the suicide rate drops to below the cis average. Why is this important? Because for students, sports and clubs are one of the few activities that have been proven to decrease depression and anxiety in ALL children. The other side will say that these "boys" are just trying to get into the girls locker rooms to "rape" them. First, absolutely no instances of this have happened in the short number of years that we have been allowing this. Why? Because it was never about sexuality. It was about gender identity. No boy (or girl) is going to go through the ostracizing that occurs when they announce they are trans in order to get into the girls' locker room. No matter who they are attracted to, the simple social alienation alone will prevent them within days. This is propaganda from people who have never talked to a trans student. By further ostracizing these marginalized students, not only do you take away one of the few things that might save them but you are further abusing them. Please say no to 1134