

May 8, 2025

Testimony in Opposition to

LD 233, An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School

LD 868, An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools

LD 1002, An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate

LD 1134, An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities

LD 1704, An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex

LD 1337, An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters

LD 1432, An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

LD 380, An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Maura Pillsbury and I live in Freeport. I am testifying in opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380.

Adolescence is a hard enough time in a child's life without adults making it more difficult. Yet that is what several of the bills before you today would do. They single out certain kids just because they are different.

As someone who competed in high school and college athletics as a female athlete, I would never want anyone to be denied the joy, friendship, challenges, and personal growth that competing in athletics can bring. The benefits of participating in sports go far beyond winning medals. Singling out trans students and not allowing them to compete denies them access to the same experience as other students. This is wrong. Trans youth are already a marginalized population. They should be allowed to seek joy and live their full lives, including competing in athletics.

As a mother of two boys, I cannot imagine the pain my children would feel if they were intentionally excluded simply for being different than everyone else thinks they should be. There are already many advantages and disadvantages in sports. Some parents can afford to have their children participate on travel teams and access private coaching. Some children are born naturally more gifted than others. Trans girls are far from dominant in competitions in Maine, and even if they were, their mental health and all the benefits that come from being part of a team and a sport mean far more than medals.

Trans kids deserve to participate too. Please stop targeting them. Our communities are tired of seeing our children hurt. There are many ways to support women and girls in sports. This is not one of them.