

Alex Stash
Westbrook, ME
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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 Alex Stash, I am a resident of Westbrook and I am writing this testimony in opposition of the bills before the committee on May 8, 2025.

As a transgender person who grew up in Maine, attended Maine schools and now am an educator to children, and therefore students, in Maine I am certain that these bills will have a severely negative effect on Maine students and communities. I believe that school should foster a supportive and safe environment so that all youth are at their best ability to learn and grow as individuals. These bills would harm transgender youth in our state and would foster an environment of fear and violence toward transgender youth. This kind of learning environment is harmful to everyone, not just transgender youth. All youth would feel the effects of these bills that prohibit students from being their true selves. All teachers would be impacted and would be put in difficult situations where they would have to choose between supporting their transgender students or abiding by the law. As these laws do the opposite of supporting transgender students.

In addition, Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 are discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore are not constitutional. Passing these bills would reward the federal government's bullying tactics and open the door for further attacks on Mainers' civil rights, but it won't make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.

Being a transgender adult living in Maine, these bills that threaten our youth make me fearful for the future of all transgender people in our state. Transgender people are under threat of violence globally. I believe that Maine can be a place where people who are different can and should feel safe and accepted. Please consider the fact that these bills do not contribute to Maine being a safe and accepting state for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you.