

**Testimony in Opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, & LD 1704:  
bills regarding transgender students**

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Scott Harriman, I live in Lewiston, and I am testifying **in strong opposition to** these bills.

Imagine that we're talking about your own kids this morning: analyzing their bodies and which bathroom they use. Sounds pretty uncomfortable, doesn't it? That's what your colleagues are doing to transgender kids all over the state today.

Many other people will provide statistical and logical arguments against all five of these bills, but I'd like to simply appeal to your sense of humanity.

You each represent thousands of Mainers, many of whom are transgender. Those people work with, go to school with, are related to, married to, or loved by many, many more of your constituents. They are not a threat to anyone. They're regular Mainers, just like any one of us.

As is common, someone probably told you to fear or despise trans people. Pitting groups of citizens against each other to achieve other goals is one of the oldest political tricks out there. The question is where do you go from here?

Will you stand up for the people of your district – all of them – or just follow along with what the national policymakers have fed you? You have an opportunity today to evoke our state motto and be a real leader. Don't let yourself be duped into a political game that is made to divide people instead of bringing us together.

Please vote **Ought Not To Pass** on LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. These bills are bad for our kids and bad for Maine. Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

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