

Jerzy Wieczorek
Waterville, Maine
May 8, 2025

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in opposition to the bills before the committee today, including LD868.

I am an educator – I teach statistics at Colby College. Over the years I have taught a wide variety of students, including several who are openly trans or nonbinary. Usually I hesitate to generalize about any demographic group of my students. But despite the many differences among my trans and nonbinary students, I can confidently tell you that they are consistently among the most tenacious and clear-sighted students I've had the privilege to teach. These students are not joking, or going through a phase, or delusional. On the contrary, they have spent years of their lives thinking critically about their own identity, then bravely being true to their best selves in a world that wants to suppress them. This combination of sincere introspection and outward courage is a rare gift. Don't we want to encourage thoughtfulness and courage in all of our citizens? Why in the world would we tell any Mainers to shrink, and hide, and tune out, when instead they could be contributing fully to our state?

I want the state of Maine to affirm that we will continue to protect trans, nonbinary, and other Mainers under the Maine Human Rights Act. I want all of my students and my fellow Mainers to continue to bring their best selves to classes, projects, athletics, and life beyond school.

Nobody is harmed when trans or nonbinary students take part in school athletics. But we all lose out when people are told, as an entire class, that they are not welcome to engage with the world.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on bill LD868.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.

Best regards,
Jerzy