

Wendy Schlotterbeck  
Auburn  
LD 1002

May 7, 2025 9:30 am

To: Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

From: Wendy Schlotterbeck,  
former Quaker Youth Minister and Retired public school teacher  
79 Skillings Corner Rd, Auburn, Maine 04210

Re: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

My name is Wendy Schlotterbeck. I am testifying in opposition to LD 233, 868, 1002, 1134 and 1704 These acts will jeopardize every classroom in Maine. And I oppose all the bills being presented today which dehumanize transgender Mainers.

We create the community we want to live in. It starts with how we treat our children. I want to live in a state where kindness and compassion are the norms. Teachers work hard creating safe, caring, classroom communities. I think about the many gifted, compassionate students I've taught who don't identify as straight. I worry for their safety and well-being. I could easily name 25 trans people in my life that wake up with worry every day. Erasing their rights goes against my deeply held values and their pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

Compassion means treating others with respect. Respecting others includes calling them by the name they want. When I became a teacher 45 years ago, I always honored the name a student wanted to be called. It's an easy thing to do. At the beginning class, students introduce themselves with the name and gender they prefer.

But changing the rules, many students will no longer feel safe or welcome. This incident happened in my class one day.

The office intercom called into my room in the middle of class to ask a student to come to the office to retrieve a forgotten item. But instead of calling out Jane Smith, the name that everyone in the class knew this student by, since middle school, the secretary intentionally called for Jack Smith even though she knew she went by Jane. The whole class was confused and looked around to see who would stand up to go to the office. To my horror and the utter embarrassment of the student, Jane did not know what to do. I was appalled at the disrespect and utter disregard our secretary had for the humanity of this student.

I ask each of you to consider how you would feel if others consistently called you by a name and gender you didn't identify with. Or had an adult question what your sex organs looked like? What about the children who are born with variations of chromosomes and have combinations of both male and female characteristics? I remember with great admiration the number of transgender students I have had the honor of teaching. One of my students discovered in her 40's she has 2 XX and 1Y chromosomes. She contacted me after 30 years to say how much she appreciated that I helped her discover her artistic gifts which helped save her life. Or the incredibly gifted student who has become a non-binary actor in New York. The trans student who dropped out as a freshman because she was harassed. The lovely non binary

former student who teaches English in Asia. What will school be like for the 7% of Maine students who identify as transgender?

I strongly urge you to unanimously vote “ought not to pass” on LD 233,868, 1002,1134 and 1704

Thank you for listening to your heart. [wendy.schlotterbeck@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.schlotterbeck@gmail.com)  
207-777-1980