

Jon Haskell-Murray
Biddeford
LD 1704

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Biddeford, Maine
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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 Jon Haskell-Murray, I'm a resident of Biddeford. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I am a parent of two young children and I have grave concerns about these many anti-trans bills. I am originally from the Deep South (but now a very proud Mainer) and so I've seen firsthand what prejudice, fear, and exclusion can do to a community—and to a child. I grew up surrounded by the consequences of marginalization: kids bullied, families pushed to the edge, and people made to feel like they don't belong simply for being different. That's why I cannot stay silent when I see the same kind of fearmongering now aimed at transgender people—especially children. I want my kids to grow up in a world where everyone is treated with dignity, where facts matter more than fear, and where no child is made to feel unsafe for being themselves. That's why I'm testifying—to speak not only as a parent, but as someone who believes that compassion and truth should guide our policies, not hate and fear. If you look at the facts, one can easily see no correlation between transgender individuals using their preferred bath or locker room and crimes of ANY sort.

Also, trans women undergoing hormone therapy have been shown to not have any significant increase in physical ability or success in sports. The only advantage of trans-women who underwent male puberty is height. Because they are taller, they have a marginal increase in ability, but not due to muscle mass or cardiovascular advantages. If height is going to be considered an unfair advantage, then the NBA and NFL are going to lose a lot of players. Below I've listed relevant facts in a concise form with citations, I urge anyone to read the studies and see that scientific facts do not agree with the knee-jerk, fearful, and down-right bigoted assertions made by some hate groups posing as concerned, family-values voters.

1. Transgender People Do Not Pose a Public Safety Threat

There is no evidence that transgender individuals commit violent or sexual crimes at higher rates than others. Multiple studies confirm that trans-inclusive policies do not increase crime in bathrooms or locker rooms. A Massachusetts study of police reports found no increase in voyeurism, assault, or other offenses after implementing trans-inclusive laws.

(Source: Hasenbush et al., Sexuality Research & Social Policy, 2019)

85 to 90% of sexual assaults are committed by cisgender men, usually known to the victim, not by transgender people in public spaces.

(Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics)

2. Transgender Individuals Are at High Risk of Victimization

Trans people are 4× more likely to be victims of violent crime than cisgender people. Transgender women of color face the highest risk, particularly of homicide and hate crimes.

(Source: Flores et al., American Journal of Public Health, 2021; FBI Hate Crime Statistics, 2023)

59% of trans people avoid public restrooms due to fear of confrontation or assault.

(Source: U.S. Transgender Survey, 2015)

3. Restricting Bathroom Access Increases Risk to Trans People

A Pediatrics study found that transgender students denied access to appropriate bathrooms or locker rooms were up to 2.5× more likely to be sexually assaulted.

(Source: Johns et al., Pediatrics, 2019)

Bathroom bans don't make cisgender people safer—but they do directly harm trans

individuals, leading to harassment, assault, and even health issues due to bathroom avoidance.

(Source: Williams Institute, UCLA; Herman et al., 2020)

4. Trans Women in Sports Do Not Hold Overwhelming Advantages

While some differences may persist (e.g., height), these are comparable to natural variation seen among cisgender athletes.

(Source: Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, 2023)

Trans women have competed in sports for years—including in the Olympics—without dominating women's fields.

(Source: Jones et al., Sports Medicine, 2017)

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!