

Abigail Perry
Starks
LD 868

My name is Abigail Perry, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 868, "An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools."

I am a concerned citizen and a family member of a transgender individual. This issue is deeply personal to me because I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that transgender individuals face in seeking acceptance and equality. Bills like LD 868 do not promote safety or fairness—they promote exclusion and reinforce the stigma that already puts transgender youth at disproportionate risk of bullying, isolation, and mental health challenges.

Athletics, restrooms, changing rooms, and housing are essential aspects of the educational experience. They are about teamwork, belonging, privacy, and personal dignity. Every student deserves the chance to participate in school activities and access facilities in a way that aligns with who they are. LD 868 would single out and ban transgender girls from opportunities that their peers have, sending the message that they don't belong.

Additionally, this bill raises serious concerns about how such a policy would be implemented. Policing students' gender not only infringes on privacy but also opens the door to invasive practices that could affect all students. The potential for harm far outweighs any supposed benefit.

We should be fostering schools where every student is safe, included, and given the same opportunities to succeed. LD 868 undermines that goal.

I urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 868. Let's protect the dignity and well-being of all Maine students.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,