

Abigail Perry
Starks
LD 1134

My name is Abigail Perry. I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1134, "An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities."

This bill mandates that individuals whose biological sex assigned at birth is male be prohibited from participating in athletic programs or activities designated for females and from using facilities designated for females in schools that receive state funding. While the intent may be to protect fairness and safety, this policy would have harmful consequences for transgender and gender-diverse youth.

For many transgender students, their gender identity may not align with the designation on their birth certificate. Requiring schools to use the name and gender on the birth certificate can invalidate a student's identity and cause significant emotional distress. It can also lead to increased bullying, isolation, and mental health challenges.

In situations where a parent does not support their child's gender identity, this bill could force schools to disclose sensitive information, potentially putting the child at risk of harm. Not all children have supportive home environments, and enforcing this policy could exacerbate existing tensions and lead to unsafe situations for the student.

Maine has made strides in recognizing and affirming gender diversity. The state now offers a nonbinary option on birth certificates, allowing individuals to choose an "X" gender designation. This progressive step aligns with the understanding that gender is not strictly binary and should be recognized as such in all official documents and records. Enforcing a policy that disregards this understanding undermines the state's commitment to inclusivity and equality.

I urge the committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 1134. Instead, I encourage the development of policies that respect and affirm the identities of all students, promote inclusivity, and protect the well-being of transgender and gender-diverse youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.