

Mareisa Weil
Freedom
LD 1432

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Mareisa Weil and I am a resident of Freedom, Maine. I am the parent of two elementary school age children who attend Mount View Elementary School in Thorndike, and I am writing today in opposition to the suite of proposed legislation presented to you today to stigmatize trans people. My testimony is submitted in opposition to LD 1432, An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act, but my opposition is to all of the bills, including LDs 233, 1134, 1002, 868, 1704, 1337, and 380.

The scapegoating of trans people in the current political landscape is disgusting and indefensible. Trans people, intersex people, and others who don't conform to binary concepts of sex and gender are a small percentage of our population and have always existed. Their existence is a beautiful thing that adds to the rich fabric of society. Acting as though this is a problem is a slap in the face to the very real problems our state and nation are facing, such as rampant and rapidly increasing wealth inequality, insufficient public investments in health and education, and many other urgent issues. A small handful of children assigned male at birth who identify as female and want to play in competitive sports is simply not the problem that most Republicans seem to want to make it.

If we didn't have such a toxically competitive culture that puts winning above sportsmanship and teamwork, and if we didn't have the above issues with wealth inequality and underfunding of education, which leads to desperation for scholarships to help pay for bloated higher education price tags, then this wouldn't have the urgency that the anti-trans side ascribes to it.

Furthermore, the biggest threat to cis women is cis males, not trans women or girls.
<https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/violence-against-women-cisgender-men-transgender-people-conservative>
<https://glaad.org/fact-sheet-misleading-narratives-about-transgender-people-and-restrooms-locker-rooms-and-other-single-sex-spaces/>
<https://www.sf.gov/trans-women-in-sports-facts-over-fear>
And trans people are four times more likely to be the victim of violent crime than cisgender people. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-trans-press-release/>

These bills are an answer in search of a problem that does not exist. I am sick to death of seeing trans people maligned and used as a scapegoat to distract us from our real issues. I don't even have time to spare to write and submit this testimony, but I am so sick to death of hearing about this, and I can't stand by and do nothing as one of the most tiny, marginalized groups of people is attacked. It's plain wrong, ugly, and unfair.

Please vote to oppose amending Maine's Human Rights Act to remove protections for gender identity, and oppose all these other garbage bills, too. We are better than this.
Thank you.