

Camille Beaulieu
Brunswick
LD 1704

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Brunswick, 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 Camille Beaulieu, I'm a resident of Brunswick, Maine. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As a student, I can see that these laws do not help anybody. Schools should cultivate inclusive environments that allow students to explore their interests and identities. This means allowing students to try extracurricular activities from visual or performing arts to engineering clubs, to sports teams. I grew up playing school-sponsored sports. These kinds of activities develop skills like teamwork, leadership, time management, and dedication. We should want more young people to play sports, not put up barriers for girls across Maine that subject them to invasive interrogation or make them risk public ridicule.

These bills leave all girls, myself included, vulnerable to unwarranted scrutiny and harassment. Trans is not an insult and it shouldn't be wielded like one. Criminalizing someone's presentation and self expression is a slippery slope. These bans violate the privacy of all Maine women and girls. These bans empower schools to police girls' bodies and unfairly scrutinize kids who are just trying to get through the day, and have been shown to affect girls of color even more. These bans breed fear, distrust, and confusion for students, families, and educators.

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!