

Lane Sturtevant
Warren, Maine
May 7, 2025

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Lane Sturtevant and I am a resident of Warren. I'm writing this testimony in opposition to LD 868, "An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools".

This and similar bills are the product of a moral panic around transgender youth that has been fomented by national political actors in order to perpetuate fear and hostility toward the LGBTQ+ community and, ultimately, to impose a regressive gender ideology that will roll back freedoms for women and girls. Such a moral panic has no place in Maine, a state that prides itself on its strong civil rights protections for minorities, as well as women and girls.

I am concerned that this bill, besides being an unnecessary response to a made-up problem, would cause real harm to students, particularly to girls. This bill empowers transphobic adults to police girls' gender and to accuse those who they feel do not look or act like a girl according to their outdated and arbitrary gender norms. In turn, this bill could subject girls to invasive and traumatizing examinations to prove their gender. Students should not have to put up with such scrutiny, suspicion, and invasions of privacy simply to play school sports. It is damaging to the well-being of students, but also to the institution of women's sports, as many girls are likely to opt out of playing sports instead of being subjected to this extreme policing of their bodies.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you,
Lane Sturevant