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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 River Weinstock I'm a resident of Starks. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

These bills seek to further restrict the rights of a small minority group who has been under attack by politicians for years due to bigotry. Having trans athletes participate in sports hurts no one. Furthermore, there is no large number of trans athletes in the state of Maine so this bill seeks to target and harass a small minority of athletes. Studies show that participation in sports is essential to the development of youths' self esteem and team working skills. Isolating trans athletes from this is a blatant discrimination on the basis of sex and is constitutional. This bill is not designed with the aim to protect female athletes but rather to continue the baseless political attacks against trans athletes, who to this day, have not physically harmed a single female athlete. There are plenty of other concrete and helpful ways to address the safety of female athletes without harming trans people. Not allowing trans people in shelters leads to the disproportionate number of trans people who are homeless and experience gender-based violence and sexual assault. Trans people who are forced into shelters of their birth sex are more likely to experience harassment, physical violence, and sexual assault.

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.