

Kimberly Martel  
Androscoggin Fallen Angels  
LD 233

Written Testimony in Opposition to Proposed Anti-Trans Legislation in Maine  
To the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

RE: Testimony in Opposition to LDs 233, 380, 868, 1002, 1134, 1432, and 1704  
I am writing today on behalf of "The Androscoggin Fallen Angels" Roller Derby League in firm opposition to the anti-trans bills currently under consideration in Maine. These bills not only target vulnerable populations but are rooted in fear, misinformation, and a failure to recognize historical and global truths about gender diversity. We should be focused on real issues—like the economy, environment, and education—instead of stripping children of their right to participate in school activities. Rather than building up our community, we're forced to protect these kids from a political climate that persecutes them, disregarding the will of their peers and friends who lack the power to vote or protect them.

LD 233, 868, 1134, 1132 – Dissent:

These bills treat transgender, intersex, and nonbinary youth as the issue, but the real danger is being ignored. They distract from the true crisis: the presence of sexual predators in positions of power as coaches, mentors, therapists, and teachers.

According to Psychology Today, 10% of students will experience educator sexual misconduct by the time they graduate high school.

The Androscoggin Fallen Angels are proud to be a league that welcomes all adults, regardless of size, gender, or skill. Being part of a team is about more than just performance—it's about teamwork, compassion, and being the best version of yourself. Together, we rise, forge friendships, and take care of each other. To think that the government would deprive any student of that opportunity is incomprehensible to me.

A few weeks ago, after our Governor stood up for the law, my father called to ask how I would have felt about a "man" being in the "girls" locker room when I played soccer in High school. Even if we assume President Donald Trump's intentions were to protect students, his actions are grossly misguided. The real danger isn't transgender student athletes—it's the adults in positions of power. At my high school, it was Coach Willman who pleaded guilty to 10 counts of abuse over 13 years. It took over a decade to stop him. As reported by Fox29.com, "Instead of a teacher, these young women were introduced to and left with a predator." The damage was immeasurable.

On behalf of my team, my friends, and the children in this community, I implore you to recognize that we are focusing on the wrong issue. By pointing blame and creating a distraction, we overlook the real dangers facing our youth.

A common argument in favor of these bills is that transgender, intersex, or nonbinary people are a recent phenomenon. This belief ignores centuries of history. In ancient civilizations, from Sumerian gala priests to revered Two-Spirit individuals in Indigenous cultures, transgender and intersex people have held respected, public roles. This history challenges the myth that gender diversity in athletics is new or unnatural. For a modern reference, consider Renee Richards and the New York Supreme Court ruling to protect her rights. If you need further proof, ask the students in our schools today if these bills help them.

LD 380 and 1704 – Dissent:

These bills represent an overreach of government into the private lives of individuals and their right to make healthcare decisions. Instead of addressing the real issues—like the rising cost of healthcare and the lack of access to affordable services—these bills target vulnerable communities, making it harder for trans, intersex, and nonbinary youth to access essential care.

These bills also undermine the ethical values of the medical profession. They force doctors and healthcare providers to violate the core principle of "do no harm" by denying essential, evidence-based care. Rather than limiting healthcare options,

lawmakers should focus on making quality care accessible and affordable for all families and children. Let the actual healthcare decisions remain where they belong—in the hands of medical professionals, therapists, and families. Moreover, LD 1704's ban on public funding for hormone treatments overlooks the diverse needs of those affected. Intersex children and individuals with hormone deficiencies—such as those with Turner syndrome, Klinefelter syndrome, or other endocrine disorders—often require hormone therapy as part of their essential healthcare. By restricting access to care, this bill risks harming a much larger group than even intended. We must consider the real-life consequences of such policies and ensure that healthcare remains inclusive and evidence-based.

LD 1002 – Dissent:

LD 1002 violates teachers' freedom of speech by mandating that they use the name and gender listed on a child's birth certificate, regardless of the child's preference. This puts educators in an absurd position—are they expected to verify each student's birth certificate before using a pronoun or nick name?

It's in the school's best interest to create an environment where students feel comfortable, respected, and safe—including allowing students to use nicknames or preferred names. Building positive relationships through respect fosters a supportive learning environment. Instead of worrying about how to regulate or punish teachers for using the “wrong” pronoun—we should focus on education itself. These kinds of regulations are impractical, unnecessary, and take time away from the real purpose of schools: teaching and learning.

In conclusion, these proposed laws are not reflective of a thoughtful, inclusive, or forward-thinking society. They are reactions—emotional, misinformed reactions—from people put into power without the knowledge or humility to wield it responsibly. On behalf of The Androscoggin Fallen Angles, I urge you to vote no on all anti-trans legislation as it is a massive step backwards. Instead invest in understanding, education, and policies that reflect the full dignity of every human being in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Kimberly P. Martel

Vice President of Athletics

The Androscoggin Fallen Angles Roller Derby League