

Sharon McDonnell
Yarmouth Town
LD 1704

To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.”

My name is Sharon McDonnell. I am a physician and I live in Yarmouth Maine.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation. I am writing to you today in opposition of the bills before the committee. ”

I am struck with the fixation that people have about the sexual identity of a small group of people and the use of bathrooms. As a woman I have never felt threat from LGBTQI people, and I am shocked at the effort that some people will go to stigmatize and degrade the rights of these fellow Mainers and to make them feel like outsiders.

These bills are simply mean-spirited and offer no “protections” from any real harm.

There may be a vocal group advocating in the media about the threats posed by Gay and Trans people but for most of us, we are dumbfounded. I assume that you know that in a women’s bathroom and dressing rooms that there are stalls right? Who knows what is going on in the other stalls, who cares? This is not your business. All efforts to legislate or control these issues are odious.

As to sports participation, let cool minds prevail and let local people work this out. The issues of sports participation are already being handled appropriately by the correct organizations and governing associations to ensure fairness. Changes to Maine law are unnecessary, and help no one. There is a lot of nuance that will never be wisely navigated by state legislation.

Let us not get swept up in the fury of national fads about this.

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!”