

May 7, 2025

To the Maine Legislature,

My name is Anne Hussey, and I live in Kennebunk, where I've spent my entire life. I attended local schools before going on to Colby College. I'm a single mother to my daughter, Emma Hussey, who is now a second-year student at Colby. We are submitting this testimony together.

We are deeply concerned and disappointed by the bills currently before the legislature that would prevent transgender girls from participating in school-sponsored athletic programs. Both of us were active in sports throughout high school, and we know firsthand the invaluable experiences that come with athletic participation: learning teamwork, developing leadership, building relationships with a diverse range of people, and coping with both success and failure. These are essential life skills that help young people grow and thrive in college, the workplace, and society.

We are especially troubled by efforts to single out and exclude one segment of the student population. When asked whether we had played sports with trans students, my honest response was: I wouldn't know. The idea of forced gender discovery or inspection is disturbing. Emma has played with girls who have since transitioned, but their gender identity had no impact on the game or on team dynamics.

We believe gender identity should never be used to limit a student's opportunity to participate in sports—or any extracurricular activity. If we begin denying access based on gender identity, where does it stop? Will we next exclude students based on race, family structure, immigration status, or field of study?

It is the responsibility of leaders in our schools, communities, and government to expand opportunity, not restrict it. You should be modeling inclusion and engagement for all students, not endorsing discrimination or exclusion.

We urge the Maine Legislature to reject all bills that promote discriminatory practices in our schools and communities.

Respectfully,
Anne Hussey and Emma Hussey