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LD 1337

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Good morning Chairs Senator Carne and Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Kelly Merrill and I serve as the Co-Chair of the Maine Green Independent Party. I am a resident of Stratton. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today in opposition to LD 1337, "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters."

Firstly, I am not interested in complying in advance to the current US Administration's unconstitutional overreach, which will be studied in the history books if the climate doesn't burn us up in the meantime.

This bill is discriminatory and paints trans women as dangerously criminal, when nothing could be further from the truth. The sponsors have it twisted.

Data from a 2021 report published in the American Journal of Public Health reveals that transgender women are over four times more likely than cisgender women to be victims of violent crime, including rape, sexual assault, and aggravated or simple assault, as well as property victimization. In addition, researchers concluded that public policy and administration need to consider the unique vulnerabilities transgender people routinely encounter, resulting in disparities in criminal victimization.

Trans women deserve to play sports, and they deserve shelter and care.

Discrimination is deadly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and deep respect to those directly impacted people who courageously stood up today. I see you. The Maine Green Independent Party urges you to vote ONTP on LD 1134, as well as all other anti-trans bills.