

Mark Tappan
135 Brackett St. #1
Portland, ME 04102
May 8, 2025

Judiciary Committee
c/o Maine Legislature
State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with the Committee today. I am a proud Mainer and a resident of Portland. I am also Professor of Education, Emeritus, at Colby College, where I taught for 31 years.

I write to express my strong opposition to all of the bills before the committee today.

These bills share a common goal of restricting the rights and protections of transgender and non-binary individuals, particularly in educational, athletic, medical, and public facility contexts. Here's what they broadly have in common:

1. Targeting Transgender Youth in Schools: Most of the bills (LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704) seek to restrict transgender students' participation in sports, use of bathrooms and locker rooms, and recognition of their gender identity in school settings.
2. Limiting Gender Identity Protections: Bills like LD 1337 and LD 1432 aim to weaken legal protections for transgender individuals under the Maine Human Rights Act by either carving out exemptions or removing gender identity as a protected category altogether.
3. Restricting Access to Gender-affirming Care: LD 380 proposes to limit access to gender-affirming health care for minors, requiring parental consent even for older teens.

Overall, these bills reflect a legislative push to define gender based on biological sex assigned at birth, and to reduce or eliminate legal recognition and accommodations for transgender and non-binary people, especially in public schools and institutions.

I urge you to oppose these bills because they represent a coordinated effort to marginalize transgender and non-binary individuals, particularly youth, by stripping away basic rights and protections. Denying trans students access to sports, bathrooms, and recognition of their gender identity in schools fosters discrimination, isolation, and mental health harm. Removing “gender identity” from the Maine Human Rights Act and restricting access to gender-affirming care undermines decades of progress toward equality and inclusion. These proposals ignore medical and psychological consensus on supporting trans people and instead impose rigid, exclusionary definitions of gender. They do not protect fairness or safety—they legislate fear and misunderstanding. Public institutions should be places of dignity and respect for all, not tools for enforcing ideological agendas. Maine should uphold its commitment to human rights and reject these harmful bills that target some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. Everyone deserves to live authentically and with equal protection under the law.

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.

Sincerely,

Mark Tappan, Ed.D.
Portland