

Charles Ellis
Westbrook
LD 868

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee. Hi, my name is Chuck Ellis and I'm from Westbrook. I am here to speak on bill LD 868 though feel free to allow the logic and reason included to apply and any other relevant bills. I want to thank you all for taking the time to listen to what we the people have to say. It's mind bending to me that we are at this place in the world where we need to have this conversation and that I need to give testimony regarding something that is so glaringly obvious that the vast majority of the world both now and throughout all of human history know and understand this. But here we are. I'm here for my nieces and nephews, I'm here for my future children that I hope to raise in Maine, I'm here for the young girls too afraid to speak for themselves, I'm here for parents who are afraid to speak up because they don't want to lose jobs or be called a bigot...a bigot for protecting girls sports and spaces...this is a simple issue. I've played basketball in a rec league in Portland which requires to have at least one girl on the court at all times. Because of the obvious biological differences between boys and girls and the physical dominance of men over women in sports it's really difficult to find women who are willing to play. This is not calculus, this is basic math and basic biology. I have compassion for anyone suffering with gender dysphoria but not to the degree that I'll sit idle by and watch as we take away hard earned trophies and opportunities, as we put women at risk by allowing men and boys into their spaces. Perhaps you're under the impression that there aren't unintended consequences (I.e. boys pretending in order to win trophies or get opportunities to be near women who are changing) but given that many don't understand biology I am guessing many don't understand boys in adolescence and are ignorant of the reality that sports has a long history littered with those who cheat in order to be able to win. Some of the most well known are Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds, Lance Armstrong, and more so please don't pretend this can't and wouldn't happen when we know it does. Boys and men are biologically different than girls and women and this makes a huge impact as sports which is why we've got boys and girls sports. It is a biological fact as so many others have noted. This is common sense and common knowledge. We need to protect our girls dignity. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 868 $2+2=4$