

Samuel Joseph Wasko
Auburn, Maine
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee and voice my opposition to the bills before you today. My name is Samuel Joseph Wasko; I'm an educator, a father, and a community member of Auburn, Maine. I write to you today because I have grave concerns that LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380 will directly undermine quality of living and public safety for Mainers in general.

In my work as an educator, mandated reporter, and community member, I have seen firsthand the very real challenges that families face in their day-to-day lives. It probably won't surprise you to hear that the vast majority of challenges we face in Maine today have nothing to do with either restrooms or athletics. Despite this clear fact, the bills before you today rationalize their existence by hyperbolically framing these issues as if the current, lawful status-quo of Maine is perpetuating significant harm and substantial injustice to our local communities.

These hollow rationalizations stand in direct contrast to very real, overt hostility and threats our school has experienced as a result of complying with Maine state laws. To this point, even one of our very own State Representatives (Rep. Laurel Libby) remains unrepentant in doxing a minor and exposing them to public ridicule, threats, and intimidation. This sort of callous misconduct highlights the hypocrisy I have seen on display behind these bills: initially claiming to care about safety and justice for the most vulnerable, only to turn around and place targets on the backs of innocent children, law abiding citizens, and entire communities as collateral (including our very own state).

This is the core reason why I oppose the bills before you. These bills ultimately focus on imposing narrow definitions of sex and gender upon ALL of us in a manner that encourages increased suspicion, scrutiny, harassment, and collateral conflicts in our public spaces. Based on the aggressive behaviors I've already seen rationalized by those who support these bills, passing these bills will only increase the rate at which people are questioned, targeted, and harassed based on superficial appearances and assumptions. I cannot fathom how any of us will be made safer or more legally protected by vindicating the aggressive, invasive, and assumptive conduct behind these bills.

Ultimately, as the supporters of these bills continue to reveal that they are willing to place minors in public crosshairs and withhold food-programs in order to get their way, it is up to you whether you reward and embolden such conduct. 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,
Samuel Joseph Wasko