

Jennifer Miller
North Yarmouth
LD 868

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North Yarmouth, Maine
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Greetings Senator, Representative, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Jennifer Miller. I am from North Yarmouth, Maine

I am the mother of a trans non-binary person who graduated from the Maine public school system 6 years ago.

I am here today before this committee in opposition of the bills LD 233, LD 868, LD 1134 as they are discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore unconstitutional.

These bills also attack trans people in sports and restrooms normalizing sex-based policing and sex testing for ALL students and emboldens violence against transgender students.

According to 2023 CDC research, roughly 3.3 percent of high school students identify as transgender, and 2.2 percent are questioning their gender identity.

Of the 3% who identify as transgender:

1 in 4 experience violence in school

1 in 4 missed school for safety concerns

7 in 10 feel sad or hopeless

1/2 of transgender students considered attempting suicide in the past year

1/4 attempted suicide

Research also shows that school connectedness has declined in the last few years, especially for LGBTQ+ youth and when students have strong connections to their school and teachers, they have better mental health, better attendance and grades, better behavior, and lower dropout rates.

Team sports, in a safe environment for transgender people, can play a huge role in school connectedness for students.

There are ways that we can be proactive about creating environments where ALL students can feel accepted and feel like they're part of a community where gender doesn't have to be a destructive factor for them and ALL students can feel safe and protected.

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!