

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee: thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

My name is Kyle Shore, I'm a Bangor resident and a born and raised Mainer. I am also a registered nurse who has had the privilege of serving seven of my (ongoing) years in nursing in pediatric and adolescent psych. I could speak to the fact that biology is as much a spectrum as anything else and not a binary, or I could speak to the devastating mental health effects of discrimination and bullying, or of not being able to transition. I could speak to how important it is that any health care you receive remain private between you and your doctor, or the fact that a large percentage of gender affirming care is received by cisgender people. I could also speak to the fact that this is just the new face of misogyny. I spent the first two and a half decades of my life as a woman and my younger self is incensed that their ability to compete against someone just because they are a cisgender male or someone simply assigned female at birth is not only being called in to question but being used as a political pawn and distraction. I could also mention that being as though all human beings have both masculine and feminine chemistry and features, any attempt at trying to ascertain if someone's testosterone is low enough to play on the girls team (or vice versa, but no one seems worried about whether or not folks assigned female at birth get to play on the boys teams) would only further police women's bodies, as plenty of women have high testosterone, whether just naturally or by conditions such as PCOS (polycystic ovarian syndrome). I could remind you that every one of us can think of someone we know who is, cisgender female and all, a massive force of broad shoulders and height to be reckoned with, and that we can all also think of someone who, cisgender male notwithstanding, is five foot eight or below, thin, hairless, and maybe even effeminate.

But I cannot tell you anything that you have not heard already today. So what I want to speak to is the fact that Maine is the greatest place on earth, and we have the brains, the heart, and the guts to set and continue to set these precedents; precedents of inclusion, of critical thinking and focus on science, and of loving all your neighbors. This will give permission for other states to follow suit, stand up to ignorance, and allow more people to choose their own paths and be free, get their needs met, and live happily. There are other states where not only can transgender folks not get the care they need or be out enough to even worry about sports teams, but where they are not safe at all. This is why we must stand up. I know that Maine, the people of Maine, will always stand with the two most imperative things: science and kindness. We are the way life should be.

I urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on all 8 of these anti trans bills, LDs numbers 233, 868, 1002, 1134, and 1704. Thank you for your time.

Kyle Shore
Bangor
LD 233

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee: thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

My name is Kyle Shore, I'm a Bangor resident and a born and raised Mainer. I am also a registered nurse who has had the privilege of serving seven of my (ongoing) years in nursing in pediatric and adolescent psych. I could speak to the fact that biology is as much a spectrum as anything else and not a binary, or I could speak to the devastating mental health effects of discrimination and bullying, or of not being able to transition. I could speak to how important it is that any health care you receive remain private between you and your doctor, or the fact that a large percentage of gender affirming care is received by cisgender people. I could also speak to the fact that this is just the new face of misogyny. I spent the first two and a half decades of my life as a woman and my younger self is incensed that their ability to compete against someone just because they are a cisgender male or someone simply assigned female at birth is not only being called in to question but being used as a political pawn and distraction. I could also mention that being as though all human beings have both masculine and feminine chemistry and features, any attempt at trying to ascertain if someone's testosterone is low enough to play on the girls team (or vice versa, but no one seems worried about whether or not folks assigned female at birth get to play on the boys teams) would only further police women's bodies, as plenty of women have high testosterone, whether just naturally or by conditions such as PCOS (polycystic ovarian syndrome). I could remind you that every one of us can think of someone we know who is, cisgender female and all, a massive force of broad shoulders and height to be reckoned with, and that we can all also think of someone who, cisgender male notwithstanding, is five foot eight or below, thin, hairless, and maybe even effeminate.

But I cannot tell you anything that you have not heard already today. So what I want to speak to is the fact that Maine is the greatest place on earth, and we have the brains, the heart, and the guts to set and continue to set these precedents; precedents of inclusion, of critical thinking and focus on science, and of loving all your neighbors. This will give permission for other states to follow suit, stand up to ignorance, and allow more people to choose their own paths and be free, get their needs met, and live happily. There are other states where not only can transgender folks not get the care they need or be out enough to even worry about sports teams, but where they are not safe at all. This is why we must stand up. I know that Maine, the people of Maine, will always stand with the two most imperative things: science and kindness. We are the way life should be.

I urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on all 8 of these anti trans bills, LDs numbers 233, 868, 1002, 1134, and 1704. Thank you for your time.