



**TESTIMONY OF MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
IN OPPOSITION TO:**

LD 1337, An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters

LD 1432, An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
State House, Room 438
Thursday, May 8, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Rebecca Boulos. I am a resident of South Portland and executive director of Maine Public Health Association.

MPHA is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 850 individual members and nearly 70 organizations across the state. MPHA works to optimize the health of people and places in Maine through advocacy, education, partnerships, and public health workforce development.

MPHA opposes LD 1337, "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters" and LD 1432, "An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act" because these bills will roll back essential protections against harassment and discrimination for Maine people based on their gender identity.

We firmly believe that all people should have fair and just opportunities to reach their full health potential. Research has consistently shown that factors outside of our control drive the opportunities that are available to us and thus impact our health status and outcomes.¹ Research has also shown that health disparities are expensive and reduce productivity.² These barriers to health are systematic, predictable, avoidable, and unfair. Ensuring equal protection for all people advances health for all people. As such, we oppose these bills. We respectfully request you to vote LD 1337 and LD 1432 "Ought Not to Pass." Thank you for your consideration.

¹ World Health Organization. [Social determinants of health](#). 2025.

² LaVeist TA, Pérez-Stable EJ, Richard P, et al. The economic burden of racial, ethnic, and educational health inequities in the US. *JAMA*. 2023.