

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

in opposition to

LD 233: An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School; **LD 868:** An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools; **LD 1134:** An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities; **LD 1704:** An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex; and **LD 1102:** An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate

19 May, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Kris Pitts and I am a resident of Lewiston; I am writing on behalf of myself, as an individual. I am voicing my strong and urgent opposition to LDs 233, 868, 1134, 1704, and 1102.

The cumulative effect of these five bills is simple: To build a legal scaffolding in Maine allowing for the justified harm of and discrimination against transgender Mainers, and for some reason -possibly the cruelty of it- children and teens have been centered in these arguments. Let me be clear: These bills attempt to accomplish their shared goal through fearmongering and the exploitation of already marginalized people, not through sound discourse or reason, and certainly not through evidence-based fact.

As a tax payer who strongly supports public schools, a social worker, and an educator, I know Maine's communities are happier and healthier when *all* students are allowed to fully participate in their learning communities, including through access to extra curricular activities of their choosing, as their authentic selves. I trust school administrators, including the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Principals Association, to continue to create, support, and monitor policies that promote the dignity and worth of *all* students. And, I believe people, including youth and young adults, are the experts in their own experiences and know best who they are.

LDs 233, 868, 1134, 1704, and 1102 are unenforceable on a practical level: How will monitoring be conducted to ensure no staff within public schools call William "Billy," Sandra "Sandy," etc.? These bills are unenforceable on an administrative level: What will a public school do when presented with a legal, State of Maine issued birth certificate bearing the gender marker "X?" How will they know whether or not a birth certificate has been amended to reflect a corrected "F" or "M" gender marker, or even a new name

(gender affirming or otherwise) when such documents bear no indication of having been amended? These bills are unenforceable on a legal level: How will public school officials confirm facilities -which have not been clearly defined- are being utilized only by those whose sex as assigned at birth matches signage presented at an entrance? Surely students will not be subjected to invasive and inappropriate inspections of their bodies by a PTA volunteer on recess duty or required to show proof of having undergone expensive and unnecessary genetic testing before being granted a hall pass.

Let teachers teach without burdening their classrooms with unnecessary policing; they certainly have enough to manage already. Let students learn without one more distraction or fear. Let athletes play on teams made up of their peers - *all* of their wonderful, diverse peers. Most importantly, let trans kids be the kids they know they are.

I strongly urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in light gray ink, appearing to be 'Kris Pitts', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kris Pitts, MPS, MSW