

Pamela Moyer

Durham, ME

May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of my family. My name is Pamela Moyer, and I am a resident of Durham. I never expected to find myself testifying in defense of my son's civil rights, but here I am. My family has proudly served this country—first my grandfather, a Korean War veteran; then my father, who served in the Iraq War; and myself, who served in the U.S. Navy during the War on Terror—because we believe in the principles this nation was built on: freedom and equality. Today, I am here to oppose **LD 868** and **LD 1002**—two bills that, if passed, would seriously harm students like my son and undermine those very values in our schools.

Personal Experience

I am the mother of a transgender boy, and I have seen firsthand the challenges trans youth face. If either of these bills becomes law, my son—and so many like him—would be put at greater risk, both emotionally and physically. **LD 868**, which bans transgender girls from school sports and restricts access to restrooms and locker rooms based on assigned sex at birth, creates exclusion where support is most needed. **LD 1002** would require schools to use a student's name and gender from their birth certificate unless parents intervene with documentation, adding unnecessary bureaucracy to something that should be about affirming a child's identity.

My son's school has been exceptional in helping him navigate his identity. Still, he has faced discrimination. He has been called slurs on the school bus and misunderstood by peers. I've had to comfort him through moments of deep pain—moments when he has hurt himself because the emotional burden was too much to bear. At one point, we had to create a safety plan because he seriously considered ending his life.

Evidence of Harm

These experiences are, heartbreakingly, not unique. According to *Medical News Today*, **“Transgender adolescents were 7.6 times more likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender peers”** (Pelc, 2022). Supportive environments—like inclusive schools—literally save lives. These bills would roll back the very protections that have allowed my son to heal, grow, and thrive.

Inclusivity and Fairness

Some argue these laws are about fairness, especially in sports—but **inclusivity does not compromise fairness**. Sports already make accommodations to ensure equity, such as separating athletes by age or weight class. Similarly, thoughtful policies—like those used by many school

and athletic organizations—can support both inclusion and fair competition. If we truly care about equity in girls' athletics, we should focus on hiring more female coaches, scheduling girls' games in prime time, and ensuring they have equal access to resources—not targeting a few vulnerable students.

Closing and Call to Action

Trans youth are not political tools or problems to be solved. They are young people trying to live, grow, and belong—just like everyone else. These bills would create fear, isolation, and long-term harm. As a mother, I ask you to see our children as human beings, not headlines.

I urge you to vote **“Ought Not to Pass”** on **LD 868** and **LD 1002**. Thank you for taking the time to hear my perspective and for considering the real lives affected by your decisions.

Sincerely,
Pamela Moyer

Reference

Pelc, C. (2022, June 14). *Transgender teens 7.6 times more likely to attempt suicide*. Medical News Today. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/transgender-teens-7-6-times-more-likely-to-attempt-suicide>