

Testimony of Paige Lambert, Fairfield, ME

**In Opposition to LD 233, LD 1134, LD 868, LD 1704, and LD 1002**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Date: May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary committee,

My name is Paige Lambert. I am an honors student at Mount Merici Academy and a student-athlete for Lawrence Middle School. I am testifying against LD 233, LD 1134, LD 868, LD 1704, and LD 1002 proposed by Maine politicians. These bills don't help female athletes, but they do hurt trans athletes. Fairness is a requirement of youth sports, and these bills are unfair.

I have been involved in youth sports in Maine since I was four years old. Over the last ten years, I've learned that sports are about teamwork, support, and feeling part of something. Despite all the good, there are challenges to being a female athlete. I have seen female athletes receive less attention than our male counterparts, experience unfair treatment by spectators and officials, and be underestimated by students and adults. None of this was caused by a trans athlete. I have never felt threatened by a trans athlete. I've never felt unsafe or unfairly treated by trans athletes.

Female athletes are already scrutinized for their looks. People comment on our bodies. It is dangerous to police anyone's body, and if people start reporting female athletes based on their looks and whether or not they "look like a girl," it will make all female athletes feel more scrutinized. More attention to our looks might make students afraid of their teammates or opponents reporting them and/or embarrassed playing sports in general. These bills would not make schools safer, they merely make students feel unwanted or uncomfortable.

I'd like to thank the committee for hearing my testimony. I believe everyone deserves a voice and to be treated with respect and kindness. Please vote no on these bills.