

Phelps Turner  
Portland, Maine  
May 8, 2025

**Testimony before the Judiciary Committee 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 1134, *An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities*
- LD 868, *An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools*
- 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*
- LD 1002, *An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate*
- 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*
- LD 380, *An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Phelps Turner, and I live in Portland, Maine. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in opposition to LD 233, LD 1134, LD 868, LD 1704, LD 1002, LD 1337, LD 1432 and LD 380.

The choices that this Committee makes on these bills will have enormous consequences for transgender people in Maine, in particular transgender children. These bills all address slightly different topics, but they all seek to deny transgender people, and in particular transgender children, the right to identify as they choose, which will lead to lasting psychological harm, and sadly, in some cases, physical self-harm.

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines "gender identity" as a "a person's internal sense of being male, female, some combination of male and female, or neither male nor female." Who am I, who is this Committee, who is any one person to tell another person how to self-identify? In Maine, we are all free to identify as we choose with respect to religion, culture, sexual orientation and many other factors. It should not be any different for gender.

You will hear from proponents of these bills that our children are at risk from transgender children. These views, like the bills in support of which they are uttered, reflect entrenched and unfounded fears about what could happen if a transgender person uses a restroom designated for the opposite sex, or uses a name not specified on their birth certificate. There is no reliable evidence that these situations pose risks, physical or otherwise to our children.

As stated in the Maine Human Rights Act, it is the policy of this state to continually review all practices infringing on "the basic human right to a life with dignity." If any of these other bills are enacted, there will be no protections on the right of transgender people to a life with dignity.

Imagine for a moment that someone you love is transgender, maybe your niece, your nephew, your daughter, your son. Now imagine the impacts of any one of these bills, if enacted, on that transgender person. If even a small part of you would be concerned, imagine what it will feel like for a transgender person and the people who love them if any of these bills are enacted.

Many years from now, most of what happens in this room during this legislative session will be long forgotten. For some of you, votes in favor these bills may simply be party line votes and will fade from memory. But if you vote in favor of these bills, then those votes will forever devastate and be remembered by transgender people and the people who love them.