

Janice Chapman
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to the Committee. My name is Janice Chapman and I'm from Cape Elizabeth. I am here today to speak in opposition to the bills before this committee.

I have a 17 year old trans grandson who is a great kid and dearly loved by our family. I am grateful he was able to access gender affirming care which he got only after many months of research, family therapy, consultation with his health care specialists, and, I admit, many tears shed over how this would affect his future. We are very concerned about his safety and his parents have been exploring places, meaning other countries, where he might go if he feels unsafe and unwelcome here.

The bills before you this morning would, if enacted, ban trans girls from participating in girls sports, ban trans students from using the bathrooms that match their gender identity and require public schools to use the name and gender on the student's birth certificate unless given written permission by parents. We want all kids to have the opportunity to play sports and we also want to see safety and fairness in competition. That's why school districts in Maine already have rules about who can participate in different sports at different levels.

The Federal government has targeted trans children by going after their health care providers, teachers that call them by their chosen name, schools that give them access to bathrooms and sports teams, and caretakers who affirm their gender identity. In Maine, we are better than this. We KNOW it is shameful to target, bully and discriminate against children who are dealing with gender identity issues; such treatment can only serve to harm them. These kids need our support, acceptance of who they are and made to feel they matter and are welcome here.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before this Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!