

Meredith Kirkmann
Brewer, Maine
May 8, 2025

Good Morning Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Meredith Kirkmann, I'm a resident of Brewer, and I am here specifically supporting all of the wonderful trans kids in Maine. I am here today in opposition to the bills before the committee.

I have been watching horrified as prolonged attacks on my trans friends are carried out in the name of protecting women and girls. I care so deeply about the trans women and men in my life, and about the trans kids that just want to be kids.

Please support the right of all people to participate in sports and life in a way most aligned with their own gender identity. There is good evidence that trans girls and women do not have athletic performance ranges outside the range for cis women. This is a coordinated attack against trans folks and children simply existing in our world and living their life joyfully.

My children are LGBTQ+. They are 12 and 14 years old and live in Maine and they and their friends are directly impacted by homophobia and anti-trans language in the schools and their own lives, both for categories that apply to them and for those that don't.

Of particular note is that no-one who is against trans participation is arguing that we should be adequately funding and resourcing girls sports or even education. In fact, we are stripping work done to benefit girls, girls sports, and girls and women's affinity groups during an anti-DEI crusade. The argument against trans participation in sports is a harbinger of future dehumanization to come. Turning the state government to attack young people is a horrible misuse of your time and attention. Please choose to protect them instead.