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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

LD 868, "An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools."

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
April 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and member of the joint standing committee on Judiciary: My name is Stacey Guerin and I represent Senate District 4. I am before you today to express my strong support for LD 868, "An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools."

This bill addresses critical aspects of ensuring both equity and safety within our educational institutions. Specifically, it aims to clarify policies regarding athletics, restrooms, changing rooms, and housing.

Regarding athletics, the inclusion of biological males in female sports raises concerns about fairness. Studies have consistently shown significant physiological differences between biological males and females, particularly after puberty. For example, a 2017 review in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* analyzing multiple studies found that, on average, biological males possess a 10-12% advantage in running speed, 30% greater grip strength, and 40% greater jumping ability compared to biological females. Allowing biological males to compete in female sports can displace female athletes, diminish their opportunities for scholarships and recognition, and undermine the integrity of fair competition.

In the context of restrooms, changing rooms, and housing, the privacy and safety of all students must be paramount. While ensuring inclusivity for transgender students is important, it must be balanced with the privacy and safety expectations of all individuals. Creating clear guidelines can help prevent discomfort and potential safety concerns.

LD 868 seeks to establish a framework that respects the dignity and safety of all students while addressing the unique considerations within these specific environments. It is about finding a balanced approach that promotes both equity and safety.

I urge the committee to carefully consider the importance of this legislation in creating a safe and equitable learning environment for all students in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee
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