

Sarah Duncan
Lewiston, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Sarah Duncan, and I'm a resident of Lewiston and a high school history teacher in Freeport. History tells us that trans people are not new or unnatural, and they must be protected, which is why I am here in opposition to the bills before the committee today.

These bills would harm my students. They invite invasive and traumatizing "gender" checks of girls in sports and will lead to the overall scrutinization of girls' bodies. Secondly, these bills add to growing transphobia and scapegoating that leads to violence against trans people, such as the bullying and assault on Nex Benedict in Oklahoma (2024) and the brutal hate-crime murder of 14 year old Pauly Likens in Pennsylvania (2024). Lastly, these bills take away the ability to engage in school extracurricular sports for a group that is already being targeted with hate. Sports help release anxiety and create a sense of belonging and trans kids need that more than ever right now.

My school works to support our students and keep them safe. If these bills were to pass, they would directly inhibit my ability to do my job to protect and care for young people as they learn, grow, and show us who they are. I trust my students to know who they are. You should too.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective. I urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on all the bills before you today.