

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary

Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you. My name is Erica Rand and I live in Portland. I am an educator, an athlete, and someone who studies and writes about gender issues in sports. I am here to speak *against* the bills under consideration today.

As an educator, I witness every day the harm caused to young trans people when they face bias and stigma based on their identities. Over the past months, as this bias has escalated nationally, so has the evidence of harm: fear of coming to class, trouble concentrating, trouble getting schoolwork done, and more. This bias is a broad educational and mental-health issue, not just a sports issue.

At the same time, there *is* a sports issue on the table, and here are some facts I can share with you as an expert on gender issues in sports. 1) cisgender girl and women athletes are not fragile people who need protection, as the rhetoric about these bills often suggests. 2) Trans people—just like non-trans people—come in many shapes and sizes, shapes and sizes that might or might not help them, depending on the sports they participate in. This simple fact often gets forgotten when people worry

about trans girls in sports. 3) Bodies themselves do not win competitions—for a reminder, check out the scouting reports that weren't so enthusiastic about Tom Brady—and success depends on a lot more than gender: ranging from physical characteristics like eyesight to innumerable advantages that money can buy. Kids with access to sports camps or extra coaching, to medical care or nutrition, to fancier equipment—or sometimes to equipment at all: all *those* kids have competitive advantages. You can't abolish competitive advantage by getting rid of trans people. 4. In case you are thinking, oh well, these bills will only diminish the education, health, and joy of a few transgender people—which I will trust you are *not* thinking because that itself is way too big a cost—please understand the following: As the history of sports regulation has shown time after time, these bills will also harm lots of girls and women who aren't trans by opening the door to invasive scrutiny and testing. This puts at risk *any* girl who doesn't look like a proper girl—or who, quite simply, does really well in her sport (because too many people believe that strength and athletic prowess are really a guy thing). Far from protecting cisgender girls, this legislation about sports and bathrooms threatens them, too.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective and I urge you to vote no on these measures. It is urgent to act against them now.