

May 8, 2025

To: The Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

From: Hedda Campbell (Portland, ME)

Re: Testimony in Opposition to LDs 233, 380, 868, 1002, 1134, 1337, 1432, and 1704.

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Hedda Campbell. I'm 40 years old. I have lived across Maine and played sports my entire life. Currently, my sport is roller derby - a full contact, team sport. I skate with Maine Roller Derby, a women's league that includes transgender, intersex, and gender-expansive athletes. I have also played with Casco Bay Roller Derby, which is an all-gender league. All of the teammates and opponents I have skated with throughout the last 14 years built me up, made me stronger, and challenged me in unique and powerful ways.

**I'm here today to submit testimony to express my strong opposition to all the bills being presented today. (LDs 233, 380, 868, 1002, 1134, 1337, 1432, and 1704).** These bills would impose harmful and discriminatory restrictions on transgender, intersex, and gender-expansive people and more specifically athletes. These bills are a direct threat to the roller derby organizations I am a part of, to our numerous skating members, officials, volunteers, and to their families.

When I hear arguments supporting these bills, people often claim to protect women and girls. As a woman and a former girl who has played sports all my life, I can say sports taught me to protect myself. I don't need discriminatory laws to feel safe. Forcing me and my teammates into rigid gender boxes in the name of protection is both insulting and demeaning.

True protection means empowering women and girls, supporting our strength and resilience, and embracing a broader, more inclusive understanding of gender. My trans and non-binary friends don't threaten my womanhood—they expand it. They make me feel safer and enrich my experience as a woman.

Research backs this up. In an *American Journal of Law and Equality* article, results show that inclusive sports environments benefit all athletes: trans girls gain confidence and affirmation, while cis girls benefit from diverse role models and a deeper understanding of identity. Inclusion builds resilience and challenges restrictive norms, making sports better for everyone.

Sports teach leadership, teamwork, confidence, and belonging—benefits every person deserves, regardless of gender. These bills threaten to take that away, promoting exclusion instead of the connection and empowerment sports are meant to foster.

Women's sports are NOT supported by harassing minors, threatening Maine schools, or excluding gender expansive athletes.

I urge you to vote **Ought Not To Pass** to reject all of these bills and stand for fairness, dignity, and equality.

Every person in Maine deserves the chance to play, compete, and thrive—just as they are.

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Sincerely,

Hedda Campbell (she/they)

Maine resident 1984-present

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Yuracko, K. A. (2023). TRANSGENDER INCLUSION AND GIRLS' SPORTS A Look at What's at Stake. *American Journal of Law and Equality*, 3, 374–413. [https://doi.org/10.1162/ajle\\_a\\_00051](https://doi.org/10.1162/ajle_a_00051)