
Testimony of Heather Gilbert

In Opposition to LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1002

Judiciary Committee – Maine Legislature | May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Heather Gilbert, and I am a proud lifelong Mainer and a mother. I am here today in strong opposition to the bills before you.

Both of my daughters are dedicated student-athletes. And my son—well, he started playing “Hot Cross Buns” years ago and hasn’t stopped since. As a parent, it is my responsibility to support my children on and off the field—to validate them, empower them, advocate for them, and most importantly, keep them alive. I’ve done it from the beginning and have no intention of stopping now.

Over the last 15 years, I’ve attended countless sporting events for my daughters and their teammates. They’ve played alongside transgender girls—with no incident. Maine already has policies in place to ensure fairness and safety in school athletics. These bills don’t aim to protect our daughters. They do the opposite.

My daughters should never be in a position where their athletic ability triggers scrutiny of their gender. They should never have to prove their anatomy to compete. If these bills pass, all girls—trans and cisgender—risk being pulled into a harmful culture of suspicion and humiliation. I do not consent to anyone verifying my child’s body to determine her right to play sports.

Transgender girls do not belong on the boys’ team. They belong with their peers. Excluding them strips them of essential opportunities for physical, emotional, and social development. These bills do not protect women—they weaponize fear, misrepresent science, and target a small, vulnerable group of children for political gain.

As a mother and a Mainer, I’m asking you to do what’s right. Reject these harmful bills and uphold Maine’s values of fairness, inclusion, and respect for all children.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective.