

Rock Coast Roller Derby  
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May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,  
Thank you for the opportunity to write to the Committee. My name is Sarah Hazelton from Whitefield Maine. I am a licensed clinical therapist specializing in gender affirming care and a member of Rock Coast Roller Derby, who I am representing here today. Rock Coast Roller Derby, a 501c3 non-profit located in midcoast Maine stands strongly in opposition of the bills presented today: LD233, LD868, LD1002, LD1134, LD1704, LD1337, LD1432, and LD380. I will now share our statement, written by our community development chair, "Lady Vader"  
We at Rock Coast Roller Derby support trans people and trans rights. We believe in the fundamental right of every person to live and thrive in their communities safely, regardless of gender identity or lack thereof. As an engaged organization in the midcoast community, we know that people- young and old -need to feel like they belong. From Equality Maine: "The issues of sports participation are already being handled appropriately by the correct organizations and governing associations to ensure fairness. Changes to Maine law [around this issue] are unnecessary and help no one."

In roller derby, we play with and against many different types of athletes. Our league is inclusive and we see on a regular basis that athletic success is not driven solely by gender! There have already been instances of bullying and harassment and misgendering with the rise of anti-trans rhetoric in the world of sports. Any attempt to enforce the ban blatantly violates girl's and women's rights in Maine and sets the stage for other places to follow in kind. This will cause fear, distrust, and confusion, and with many barriers already in place for people who want to pursue sports, present even more challenges to overcome.

We often play against teams from other states and Canada. Some of our Canadian athletes are afraid to cross the border for our games this year, and it has negatively affected our league's season and morale. We understand and sympathize with these friends, and are saddened that they are already affected by the political climate here. We hope to prevent further changes that make them feel even more unwelcome.

Rock Coast Roller Derby believes that sports for youth and adults alike can provide healthy exercise and social interaction. We combat isolation and bring community together with our sport, and believe that every human should have the chance to do the same. We stand by our trans friends and hope to see them on the track in the future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hazelton, LICSW

Keelia AKA Lady Vader  
Community Development Chair  
Rock Coast Roller Derby