



TO: The Honorable Amy Kuhn
The Honorable Anne Carney, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

DATE: May 8, 2025

RE: LD 233: An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School

LD 868: An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools

LD 1002: An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate

LD 1134: An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities

LD 1704: An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Al Cleveland and I'm here today as the Advocacy Director for the League of Women Voters of Maine.

The League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization that has been working for over 100 years to encourage informed and active participation in government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by the suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Since our organizations began by helping 20 million newly enfranchised white women vote, we have spent decade after decade promoting informed civic participation and defending democracy. The League of Women Voters is dedicated to ensuring equal rights and equal opportunity for all; this includes transgender people.

The League of Women Voters of Maine is in strong opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. Each of these bills will hurt Maine's girls, schools, and communities. The League of Women

Voters of Maine has been focused for decades on expanding and protecting Maine's democracy. These bills will interfere in children's constitutional rights and privacy in our schools. Protecting minority rights are a pillar of our democracy, and these bills are a threat to that fundamental principle.

Since 2020, the League of Women Voters of the US has been engaged in the legal case, *Hecox v. Little*. This case challenges Idaho's Fairness in Women's Sports Act, which targets transgender, nonbinary, and intersex students with the nation's harshest requirements for participation in women's sports. In the amicus brief, LWV argues that trans sport bans harm transgender and non-binary athletes, and harms cisgender and intersex athletes, particularly those who do not conform to stereotypical notions of "femininity. Access to sports supports students' physical health, their emotional well-being, and social connections. Transgender girls experience isolation and discrimination at higher rates than their cisgender peers making their access to healthy social outlets even more significant. More young people should be given access to sports and extracurricular activities; students don't need additional barriers.

The League of Women Voters of Maine and our partner organization Maine Students Vote have been fueled by the labor and love of Maine trans youth. Children, all children, deserve the right to play sports, use bathrooms, and access locker rooms aligned with their gender identity. All children deserve to be called by the names of their choosing.

Dr. Elijah Nicholas says "Democracy is not just about elections—it's about the protection of human rights, the ability to exist freely, and the promise that all people are treated with dignity under the law. But when a nation systematically targets its most vulnerable citizens—its children—what does that say about the state of its democracy?"

We urge this committee to vote ought not to pass on these anti-trans bills.