Sierra Aponte Clarke Lewiston LD 233

Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. As a parent I know that these bills would leave ALL girls vulnerable to scrutiny and harassment. These bans empower schools to engage in policing adherence to gender norms, which unfairly scrutinizes girls' bodies, and have been shown to affect girls of color even more. As a competitive athlete my entire life, I know the positive impact sports have on one's confidence and self. To bar a students right to competition and community is an injustice. This is not an issue of defining gender, or fairness in competitive outcomes, this is a matter of decency, targeted alienation, and fighting to uphold the right we all deserve to athletics.