

Marissa Armitage
York, Maine
May 7, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Marissa Armitage, I'm a resident of York, Maine and I'm a parent and educator. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I believe it is my duty as an educator to protect all children and to provide a safe learning environment for them. Every student deserves a supportive environment in which to thrive. Every student should have the right to receive an education and participate in school activities. School climates are improved when more children participate in extracurricular activities. We should want more young people to play sports, not put up barriers for girls across Maine that subject them to invasive interrogation or make them risk public ridicule.

Trans women and gender non-conforming students are already at high risk for violence and biased-based harassment. These bills embolden community members to bully and harass girls by accusing them of not conforming. If these bills pass, they will become yet another weapon for bullies to use against girls in Maine. These bans will ensure that girls' bodies are scrutinized and policed in an invasive and traumatizing way. These bills will cause distrust and fear in our school communities.

As educators, it is our job to do what is best for kids. These bills are NOT what is best for kids.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!

Marissa McCue Armitage