

Nicholas Bailey
Old Town
LD 233

Nicholas J. Bailey
Old Town, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, I extend my thanks for hearing this testimony and the voices of the people regarding such an important matter. My name is Nicholas Bailey, resident of Old Town and proud citizen of the state of Maine. I am voicing my opposition to bill LD 233.

As an average Maine citizen working retail I have the privilege of knowing and interacting with a multitude of people on a day to day basis. Normal, everyday people who make up the majority population of the state, of these people I interact with daily are a handful of transgender folk. Transgender individuals are subject to harassment on the streets, in homes, at schools, at the workplace, and now from the government of the United States, let us not allow Maine to simply fall in line with clear disregard for our fellow Mainer. To use the bathroom you know you should use or join the sports team you know you should join without discrimination or judgement is a privilege not everyone has, but should.

This blitz of bills regarding restrictions on transgender individuals rights is fundamentally based on the stripping of rights from Maine citizens. This bill, and the others like it, will unjustly target children and subject not only their appearances to scrutiny but their bodies and sense of self as well. Schools and their athletic teams should be a place of acceptance where we uplift the next generation and not an opportunity to peel away rights which have helped so many people. Schools and athletic teams already have governing bodies overseeing participation as no two people are of equal measure in athleticism. These bills are simply not needed as this situation is more complex than being written away in a single motion. We must stand up for those whose voices are drowned by the louder opposition.

I thank you for the opportunity to share my views and we as concerned people of Maine urge that this bill and those like it do not get passed.