

Ought Not to Pass

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

Committee on Judiciary

May 8th, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Jill Barkley Roy and I am a resident of South Portland. I am submitting written testimony in opposition to LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134.

As a mother to my incredible three and a half year old daughter, I know I would do anything to protect her from harm. I knew that before I knew her, when my wife Amy and I decided to become licensed Resource Parents here in the State of Maine. We opened our lives and our home up to intense scrutiny, took several hours of training, and agreed to ongoing oversight in order to offer love and safety to a child in need. Our daughter was our first placement and after three years of being in foster care, we adopted her and became a legal family last summer.

My commitment to my daughter is the first reason I am submitting this testimony against these bills. The second reason is that I am a married, lesbian, cisgender woman who has lived by the Angela Davis quote that "If they come for me in the morning, they will come for you in the night." As a proud member of Maine's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer community, I know that if transgender people are being targeted with hate and discrimination, it will not be long before that personally impacts me, my wife, and our daughter. I have and will continue to stand in solidarity with members of my community against any threats of discrimination or violence.

As a mom to a daughter, these bills do nothing to keep her safe. Statistics and studies for countless years do not lie. My daughter is most at risk of being harmed by heterosexual men as a child, when she is a teenager, and when she is an adult woman. That's why we teach her about her body, her autonomy, privacy, safety, and boundaries. We read books and reinforce the knowledge that her body is hers and that she can always tell us if someone makes her feel uncomfortable or unsafe or harms her in any way.

My daughter loves the water and loves to swim. She finds a joy in the pool that is palpable. We have kept her in swim lessons at our local community center and will continue to celebrate and encourage this current passion. I imagine her as part of a swim team someday, if she chooses to continue to pursue this sport. I will not feel worried or fearful if one of her teammates is a young transgender girl. I will feel wary of her male coaches and the times she travels with the boys team, as those are actual, statistical risks to my child.

I imagine if these bills were passed and my daughter had to "prove" her biological sex to a coach or a teacher or an emboldened parent. If she were questioned because she was too tall or too strong. If she were bullied and harassed for what her body looked like should she have a muscular and lean build or short hair.

Like every parent, I want to imagine a bright, safe, and healthy future for my child. Unfortunately, bills like this harm every Maine child, especially Maine girls - transgender and cisgender alike. I urge the committee to vote Ought not to Pass on all three of these bills.

Thank you for your time and your service,

Jill Barkley Roy, South Portland