

May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Andrea Breau, I'm a resident of Lewiston, and I'm writing in my capacity as a former public school athlete in Maine, the mother of a gender creative child, and as a Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Colby College. I am in strong opposition to the bills before the committee today – specifically LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380.

Every student should have the freedom to be themselves, to be safe, and to feel respected at school. These bills would **unnecessarily roll back civil rights**, ban transgender girls from participating on school sports teams, and open the door to harassment, bullying, and abuse of ALL girls and gender expansive children in our public schools. This is a harmful national political agenda, not one “homegrown” here in Maine. **Maine has a long history of protecting the rights of all students**, on the playing field and beyond. Anti-trans activists are using trans athletes as a weapon to further an agenda to roll back civil rights of LGBTQ+ people, people of color, women, immigrants, and others. **Changes to Maine law are unnecessary, and help no one:**

- These bills violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection – LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 are discriminatory on the basis of sex, and therefore, are not constitutional.
- Title IX prohibits sex discrimination and does not require a prohibition on transgender or intersex athletes.
- The Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005.
- Any attempt to strip Maine's federal funding for protecting trans people is a federal overreach. Rewarding the Trump administration's bullying tactics opens the door for further federal attacks on Mainers' civil rights, and will not make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.

As someone who played girls' sports in Lewiston Public Schools as a youth, I know that these bills would **hurt my former schools and the Lewiston community**. Participating in sports taught me important values like perseverance, discipline, self-confidence, and most importantly, **teamwork and connection to others who weren't “just like me.”** We should want more young people to play sports, not put up barriers that subject them to interrogation and public ridicule. These bans **blatantly violate the privacy of all Maine women and girls** by inviting anyone to call for an invasive and traumatizing “gender check” on any girl who wants to play sports if they think she is “too [add arbitrary physical trait here].” We know that bans embolden spectators, community members, and fellow competitors to bully and harass girls. If these bills pass, they will become just another weapon for bullies – adults and youth alike – to use against girls in Maine.

Finally, specific to LD 1337 and LD 380, housing and healthcare are basic human rights. Trans women in Maine *already* face serious barriers to accessing appropriate shelter – not to mention

disproportionate risks of violence – when they are unhoused. Shelters know how to keep all women safe and have been doing it for years with no problems. Furthermore, repealing Maine's Shield Law would subject Maine's already-strained healthcare infrastructure to out-of-state criminal prosecutions for providing standard-of-care health care as legally allowed in this state. Maine state law has allowed doctors and patients to safely give and receive the care they need – let's keep it that way.

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

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