

Jennifer Brockway

Troy, ME

May 7, 2025

RE: LD 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432, 380

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to add my voice in support of Maine's trans youth. My name is Jennifer Brockway, my pronouns are she/her, and I am a resident of Troy. My children attend rural public schools, where both are members of sports teams and both confidently and comfortably use the bathrooms of their choosing. I am submitting my written testimony on behalf of my entire family in our opposition to all of the bills before the committee today: RE: LD 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1704, 1337, 1432, 380.

For more than 30 years I have rallied, marched, protested, and testified in support of women and girls. I was a high school athlete, women's club member, and recipient of countless awards and opportunities aimed at supporting girls and women. Despite the rhetoric of 'protecting our girls' surrounding today's hearing, these bills are not about supporting young women. They are about attacking the most vulnerable members of our community, encouraging hate, fear, and mistrust, and emboldening the bullies. They are about marginalizing and denying rights to historically oppressed groups. If the proponents are successful here, they will next come for the rights of all LGBTQ+, people of color, immigrants, and yes, women.

Any attempt at enforcing a ban on trans youth in sports or restricting bathroom use will blatantly violate the privacy of all Maine women and girls. Policing who is or isn't a 'girl' will subject all girls to unfair scrutiny of their bodies and place even greater social pressure on young women who don't always conform to stereotypical feminine appearances.

Adolescence is hard enough without the addition of political agendas and hate. Let us show our support for all Maine youth – cis-gendered girls and trans included – by providing the academic, mental and physical health, athletic, and social supports that will allow all our youth to thrive and develop into successful adults.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my family's perspective. Please do not allow any of these bills to advance. Please vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you.