

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Benjamin Campo and I live in North Yarmouth, Maine.

I am writing to oppose LD 868 and all the bills being heard on May 8, 2025 because these bills all discriminate against transgender girl athletes in elementary school, high school and college-level sports. These bills send a message that all girls are inferior to all boys in all sports, and that is just not true. In Maine boys that have played field hockey have been no better than the girls. This is obvious, because success in sports requires more than just inherent physical strength; it requires intelligence, cooperation, creativity, and agility. Any gender can bring those traits.

This is a fact that is especially meaningful to me, because I have coached girls lacrosse for nearly 10 years, from elementary school age to middle school. Some of these players went on to be honored with all state or all district honors and as well as win multiple state championships. Most importantly all of the players learned about teamwork, collaboration, character, and fitness among other things. Only 1 of those players went on to play college lacrosse, and not through a full athletic scholarship. No girl is losing athletic scholarships because of transgender student/athletes.

During all my years coaching the most profound event was when 8th grade players learned that a teammate's father died. During pre-game warmups, the players huddled together and dedicated their game to their grieving teammate. We as coaches had nothing to do with that. That was the result of the student/athletes learning the value of an individual and the individual to their team. That is what sports about. All children benefit from that.

Additionally, enforcing these bills will put all girl athletes through intrusive inspections that pose greater dangers to Maine's girls. These bills do nothing to protect girls or improve women's sports. Maine has long protected its LGBTQ community against discrimination. Now is not the time to roll back those protections. I urge you to vote NO on all of the following bills: LD 233, LD 380, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432 and LD 1704.

Thank you.