

Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary in regards to:

- LD233 - 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
- LD868 - An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools
- LD1002 - An Act to Protect Children's' Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate
- LD1134 - An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities
- LD1704 - An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex
- LD1337 - An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters
- LD 1432 - An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act
- LD380 - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services

Senator Carney, Rep. Kuhn and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on all of the above proposed legislation. It is clear that recent attacks on transgender youth at the local, state, and national level is not about athletics, or "protecting girls", or fairness. It is about erasing transgender people from our society.

I am the father of two teenage sons – one of whom happens to be transgender.

My son, and we as parents, are continually faced with reminders from politicians that his existence is not as valid as a cisgender brother. His name is questioned. His pronouns. We need to worry about whether participating on the boy's sports team will cause him to be a target. We constantly and consistently wonder which space he will be accepted in and which could be a danger. We worry if his health care will be taken away, if he will be forced to out himself to every teacher and classmate because his legal name does not match that on his birth certificate. We never give that a second thought for our cisgender son.

President Trump – and members of the Maine State Legislature – have suggested that caring for my son and accepting his gender identity is a form of child abuse. His very existence is called a lie. They suggest that students go to school and switch genders overnight, ignoring and minimizing the very real and difficult process of socially transitioning and the stress and strain it can put on individuals and families.

We are just parents. Just trying to work to keep our kids safe, healthy, and able to meet their potential. Please, do not target our students and our schools with these bills that are simply a Trojan horse for further marginalization of trans people.

I will close with an offer to members of the committee. If you have not spoken with the parent of a trans student, a trans athlete, please reach out to me. I am happy to talk and answer questions about the reality of parenting a trans teen in this environment, and the system that exists here in our great state to support and protect their existence.

Jeff Candura  
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