

Nicole DiPietrantonio
Portland, Maine
LD 868

To Our Maine Legislature,

My name is Nio DiPietrantonio and I'm a chef in Portland, Maine. I have been working in the industry for over eighteen years, and have been a born-and-bred Maine resident my entire life.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the harmful bills being presented on May 8th—LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. These bills do not reflect the values of equity, inclusion, and fairness that Maine stands for. Instead, they promote harmful rhetoric and discriminatory practices that will irreparably damage our children, our communities, and our schools.

These bills target transgender youth, but their impact will harm all Maine women and girls. If passed, they will invite invasive and traumatizing “gender checks” against any girl deemed “too tall” or “too strong.” Such policies embolden bullying, harassment, and public ridicule, creating an unsafe environment for all students, especially girls of color who are already disproportionately scrutinized.

As a Maine woman, I can wholeheartedly say my identity and safety has NEVER been threatened by a member of the trans-community. I have worked in kitchens since I was sixteen years old, and the ones who posed the most threats to me—both as a woman and a youth—were predatory workplaces filled with power hungry bullies who didn't care about the rights or lives of others. That is something we CAN protect against with proper legislation and workplace and school protections against bullying, harassment, and better access to education and mental health support.

The trans-community is absolutely NOT the cause of these issues.

The enforcement of these bans blatantly violates the privacy of Maine's women and girls, empowering schools to police adherence to gender norms. This is a dangerous precedent that fosters fear, distrust, and confusion among students, families, and educators.

Schools should be places of support and inclusion, where every child feels safe to learn, grow, and participate in activities. Extracurricular activities like sports teach critical values—perseverance, teamwork, and self-assurance—that benefit all students. Blanket bans, however, create barriers and subject young people to invasive interrogations or physical inspections, discouraging participation and undermining the supportive environments we strive to build.

Moreover, these bills are unnecessary and unconstitutional. Title IX and the Maine Human Rights Act protect against discrimination based on gender identity. A blanket ban not only violates these protections but also strips Maine of its federal funding, putting our state's autonomy and resources at risk.

Athletic success is determined by many factors—ability, drive, and conditioning—not solely by gender. Trans athletes, like all athletes, vary in skill and performance. These bills weaponize trans athletes to further an agenda of exclusion, targeting vulnerable groups and perpetuating discrimination against LGBTQ individuals, people of color, women, and immigrants.

I urge you to reject LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. These harmful bills do not make Maine safer or fairer. Instead, they undermine the values of equity and inclusion that are vital to our communities. Please stand with Maine's children and families by opposing these discriminatory measures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole “Nio” DiPietrantonio