

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland
LD 1704

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Ann Dodd-Collins and I live in Portland. I am writing in opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704.

As a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), I am opposed to any bill which denies a student's own sense of self, which does not acknowledge and celebrate the full spectrum of gender identity and expression. As a retired school librarian, I am opposed to any bill which targets a group of students. These bills do not address any of the real concerns that women and girls face in sports. They target a small group of transgender youth for unfair treatment. Young people of all backgrounds, regardless of their gender identity, deserve access to the proven social, mental, and physical benefits of sport.

LD 233 would "throw the baby out with the bathwater", so to speak. In withdrawing state funds from any school that allows transgender athletes to participate in sports, it is depriving ALL students of funds needed to support their education.

LD 868 would prohibit students from participating in sports AND using the bathroom which matches their gender identity. It denies/rejects who they are. It is demeaning. LD 1002 would deny a transgender student's identity. As someone who has gone by her middle name all her life, I get frustrated by personnel in doctor offices and other places who insist on calling me by my first name even though I have clearly written the name I use on my forms. I cannot imagine how demoralizing it must be to have both my name and my gender identity rejected.

LD 1134 is poorly written and would only lead to confusion and harm to many students, not just transgender students.

LD 1704 is another bathroom ban.

Why are we so concerned with who uses what bathroom or plays on what sports team when the current administration in Washington is trying to eliminate the Department of Education, slashing funding to schools, and dehumanizing both students and teachers?

I urge you to vote Ought NOT to Pass on all of these bills.

Thank you.