

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Shanon Fitzpatrick, and I live in Lamoine, Maine.

I am writing with great urgency to oppose the current raft of hateful legislation that targets trans people in the name of “protecting” girls. This includes:

- LD 233: Which is historically and scientifically ignorant, and utterly unenforceable without horrifyingly intrusive inspections that pose great danger to young women in Maine.
- LD 380: Which muzzles healthcare providers and intrudes on the medical privacy of young people and their parents.
- LD 868: Which is repugnant fearmongering, scientifically ignorant, and unenforceable without horrifyingly intrusive inspections that pose great danger to young women in Maine.
- LD 1002: Which is absurd government overreach into the personal lives of students and the discretion of educators.
- LD 1134: Which is again, both anti-scientific and unenforceable without horrifyingly intrusive inspections that pose great danger to young women in Maine.
- LD 1337: Which seeks to carve out exceptions to basic human rights protections and potentially harms a group of people (trans women) who are already at risk for domestic violence.
- LD 1432: Which is a disgusting attempt to leave some of the most vulnerable Mainers exposed to every manner of discrimination.
- LD 1704: Which is yet more repugnant fearmongering, scientifically ignorant, unenforceable overreach into the personal lives of students.

As a former professor of history and current professional historian, allow me to say: history will judge this moment of partisan bigotry wrapped in the empty rhetorical trappings of concern for girls harshly. Trans youth are already vulnerable and marginalized, and those who care for and work with them will be further stymied by these proposed bills. If you want to help girls, then put resources into proven avenues: healthcare, education, domestic violence prevention, equal pay legislation, support for childcare, and other areas that benefit our society instead of tear it apart.

Maine has long protected its LGBTQ+ community against discrimination, both from within and without. It is more important than ever to prevent any weakening of these vital protections.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Shanon Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.