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LD 868

While this bill presents itself as a measure to promote safety and equity in schools, in reality, it creates a harmful framework that targets and isolates transgender and gender nonconforming students. LD 868 would force schools to deny trans students access to facilities and housing aligned with their gender identity—undermining their dignity, safety, and basic human rights.

Let us be clear: transgender students are not a threat to safety. This bill is not about protecting students—it is about policing gender and creating fear where it does not belong. All major medical and psychological associations in this country—including the American Psychological Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics—support affirming trans students’ identities, including their right to use restrooms and facilities consistent with who they are.

LD 868 would put trans and nonbinary students at increased risk of bullying, harassment, and violence by singling them out and forcing them into separate or stigmatized accommodations. This bill violates their privacy, undermines their mental health, and makes their educational environments more dangerous—not safer.

Moreover, enforcing this kind of legislation raises serious legal and constitutional concerns. Title IX protections have been interpreted by multiple courts to include gender identity. Passing LD 868 could open the state and individual school systems to costly lawsuits, all while targeting some of our most vulnerable young people.

Schools should be places of learning, acceptance, and growth—not places that codify exclusion. Maine students deserve policies that reflect compassion, science, and justice—not fear-based narratives.

I urge you to vote against LD 868 and to stand with all Maine students, including those who are transgender, by promoting policies that affirm every student’s right to belong and to be safe.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.