

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee via written testimony. My name is Kate Goodman, I'm a resident of Portland and work in Wiscasset . I am a youth programming professional who has been working with youth ages 3-18 for two decades in summer camp and afterschool programs. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today. The bills are [LD 233](#), [LD 868](#), [LD 1002](#), [LD 1134](#), [LD 1704](#), [LD 1337](#), [LD 1432](#), [LD 380](#).

As a youth programming professional, I know that these bills would leave ALL girls vulnerable to scrutiny and harassment. These bans would invite any person to call for an invasive or traumatizing “gender check” on any girl who wants to play sports if they think she is “too tall” or “too strong.” I have seen first hand the impact of these inappropriate comments on girls’ development and mental health. These bans empower schools to engage in policing adherence to gender norms, which unfairly scrutinizes girls’ bodies, and have been shown **to affect girls of color even more**. These bans will cause **fear, distrust, and confusion** for students, families, and educators.

Additionally, Any attempt to enforce this ban **blatantly violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls**. In the summer camp industry, we often talk about how making spaces safer for the most vulnerable people makes spaces safer for ALL children. For example, at the summer camp where I am currently the Director, our policies and practices promote and ensure privacy and bodily autonomy for all of our campers. Campers are not allowed in bathrooms with other people, everyone is required to keep their private body parts private and are empowered to advocate for their safety. These bills actually counteract positive measures to protect the privacy of all children by surveilling and scrutinizing any young person’s body.

I feel compelled to share my particular issue with [LD 1002](#). There is [significant research](#) that shows trans children are subjected to much more discrimination and harassment and suffer from significant mental health issues as a result as compared to other children. As reported by the AMA, A landmark 2018 study in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* found that transgender youth who could use accurate names and pronouns experienced 71% fewer symptoms of severe depression, a 34% drop in reported suicidal thoughts and a 65% decrease in suicide attempts. Denying educators the ability to call students by their names will negatively impact these already vulnerable young people and will take away potentially the only safe adults they have in their lives.

Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. The same [Trevor Project research](#) cited above shows that as of 2024, 45% of transgender and nonbinary young people reported that they or their family **have considered**

**moving to a different state** because of LGBTQ+-related politics and laws. It would be incredibly sad, shameful, and bad for our state for Maine to become another state that families leave for the safety of their children. I hope that Maine can continue to be a state that supports families and provides safety for children.

Thank you,

Kate Goodman, M.Ed.