

Malvina Gregory
Portland ME
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for this opportunity to write to you about the importance of making all our children feel safe in our schools. I am a resident of Portland, and a mother of a young cisgender girl. I am writing **in opposition** of the bills being heard today (LD 233, LD868, LD 1002, LD1134, LD1704, LD1137, LD1432, and LD380).

While my child currently identifies as the same gender that she was assigned at birth, this is not true of two of her nonbinary friends who are still finding their way. It is not true of the child of another friend who has come out as transgender. I write today to support all of them in having safe schools and communities.

Multiple studies have repeatedly shown that transgender adolescents are at much higher probabilities of suicide ideation and attempts.¹ Targeting, isolation, and victimization increase these feelings of suicidality, whereas feelings of acceptance have been shown to be protective factors.² Over forty percent (44%) of transgender adults have thought about suicide, and nonbinary individuals are even more likely to struggle with substance abuse.³ These studies are reinforced by anecdotal stories I have heard from multiple adult transgender and nonbinary friends, who tell me stories of their harrowing, sad younger years where they felt alone and targeted and unsafe.

Proponents of these bills are concerned that someone may be accosted in a bathroom or that someone might declare themselves as transgender in an attempt to win at a sport. Neither of these fears are likely to happen; they are myths. However, the truth is that if these bills were to be passed these beautiful children are more likely to feel targeted, isolated and alone. They may be more likely to attempt to take their own lives. They would be more likely to engage in drug and alcohol-related activities and risk-seeking behaviors. They may also be singled out as different among their peers and be targeted with additional bullying and aggression. I look our own state's history and what happened to Charlie Howard, and I worry that in passing these laws we will signal these beautiful children as someone to be reviled and ostracized, and they will be more physically at risk of assault.

There are no trans people assaulting anyone in bathrooms or locker rooms. There are still people who move with hate and aggression to target folks who are trans. There are no trans children looking to steal away sports trophies. There are only children asking to be loved for who they are. For this reason **I urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 233, LD868, LD 1002, LD1134, LD1704, LD1137, LD1432, and LD380.** Thank you.

¹ Thoma et al, 2019, "Suicidality Disparities Between Transgender and Cisgender Adolescents". Pediatrics

² Hatchel, et al, 2018 "Minority Stress Among Transgender Adolescents: The Role of Peer Victimization, School Belonging, and Ethnicity" Journal of Child and Family Studies

³ Kid et al, 2023. "Prevalence of substance use and mental health problems among transgender and cisgender U.S. adults: Results from a national probability sample" Psychiatry Research

Malvina Gregory
Portland
LD 233

Malvina Gregory
Portland ME
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for this opportunity to write to you about the importance of making all our children feel safe in our schools. I am a resident of Portland, and a mother of a young cisgender girl. I am writing IN OPPOSITION of the bills being heard today (LD 233, LD868, LD 1002, LD1134, LD1704, LD1137, LD1432, and LD380).

While my child currently identifies as the same gender that she was assigned at birth, this is not true of two of her nonbinary friends who are still finding their way. It is not true of the child of another friend who has come out as transgender. I write today to support all of them in having safe schools and communities.

Multiple studies have repeatedly shown that transgender adolescents are at much higher probabilities of suicide ideation and attempts.(1) Targeting, isolation, and victimization increase these feelings of suicidality, whereas feelings of acceptance have been shown to be protective factors.(2) Over forty percent (44%) of transgender adults have thought about suicide, and nonbinary individuals are even more likely to struggle with substance abuse.(3) These studies are reinforced by anecdotal stories that I have heard from multiple friends who have fully transitioned, and who tell me stories of their harrowing, sad younger years where they felt alone and targeted and unsafe.

Proponents of these bills are concerned that someone may be accosted in a bathroom or that someone might declare themselves as transgender in an attempt to win at a sport. Neither of these fears are likely to happen; they are myths. However, the truth is that if these bills were to be passed these beautiful children are more likely to feel targeted, isolated and alone. They may be more likely to attempt to take their own lives. They would be more likely to engage in drug and alcohol-related activities and risk-seeking behaviors. They may also be singled out as different among their peers and be targeted with additional bullying and aggression. I look our own state's history and what happened to Charlie Howard, and I worry that in passing these laws we will signal these beautiful children as someone to be reviled and ostracized, and they will be more physically at risk of assault.

There are no trans people assaulting anyone in bathrooms or locker rooms. There are still people who move with hate and aggression to target folks who are trans. There are no trans children looking to steal away sports trophies. There are only children asking to be loved for who they are. For this reason I urge you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 233, LD868, LD 1002, LD1134, LD1704, LD1137, LD1432, and LD380. Thank you.

(1) Thoma et al, 2019, "Suicidality Disparities Between Transgender and Cisgender Adolescents". Pediatrics

(2) Hatchel, et al, 2018 "Minority Stress Among Transgender Adolescents: The Role of Peer Victimization, School Belonging, and Ethnicity" Journal of Child and Family Studies

(3) Kid et al, 2023. "Prevalence of substance use and mental health problems among transgender and cisgender U.S. adults: Results from a national probability sample" Psychiatry Research