

Anna Guest
Lisbon, Maine
May 8, 2025

In opposition to LD 233, 868, 1002, 1134, 1337, 1704

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee.

My name is Anna Guest, I'm a resident of Lisbon, and I am writing as a concerned citizen who believes in equity and inclusion for all people. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

This bill is an attempt to dehumanize and exclude transgender youth. Every young person deserves to grow up feeling safe, accepted, and free to express their authentic self. Our earliest years set the stage for our successes throughout life. It's essential that our systems and policies offer transgender girls lived experience that they are seen, included, and safe to be themselves.

There is no scientific basis for excluding transgender girls from sports. The latest research shows trans women and girls do not have competitive advantages over their cisgender peers, even at elite levels. We have a role to play in positioning the focus of sports on fun, teamwork, and learning—not judgment, exclusion, and scarcity-based competition.

The data is clear: anti-trans legislation causes real harm. A 2024 peer-reviewed study by The Trevor Project found that anti-trans laws are linked to a 72% *increase* in suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth. Discriminatory policies don't protect students—they endanger them. Research shows that restrictive bathroom and locker room policies are tied to higher rates of assault against transgender youth by other students.

Let's ensure that Maine leads by example in protecting and progressing human rights for all, including transgender people who deserve greater visibility, equity, and affirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you.