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Scarborough, Maine
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Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. I am grateful for the privilege to be speaking today in front of this committee. My name is Charlotte Jacobs, I reside in Scarborough and work in Gorham at Seedlings to Sunflower Non Profit Child Care and Family Center. I am here today in opposition of the dangerous bills we discuss today.

As a mother of a 15-year-old girl, I stand in *strong* solidarity with transgender youth and firmly oppose the harmful anti-trans bills being considered in Maine — LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134. These bills are not just discriminatory against transgender students — they pose a serious threat to the safety, privacy, and dignity of *all* girls.

I would never want my daughter to be subjected to proving that she is female just to play sports. These bills would allow — even *encourage* — schools and communities to scrutinize and police girls' bodies based on arbitrary ideas of what a girl "should" look like. That is invasive, traumatizing, and wrong. If these laws pass, any girl who is "too tall," "too strong," or simply doesn't conform to gender stereotypes could be targeted, harassed, or forced into degrading "gender checks." No child should ever have to go through that.

As a parent, educator, and school administrator, I know that these policies would open the door to bullying and discrimination. They would empower spectators, community members, and even peers to accuse girls of being trans as a means to exclude or intimidate them. And as we've seen in other states, girls of color and those who don't fit traditional expectations will bear the brunt of this harm. These bills are not about fairness — they're about control and fear.

They will cause distrust in schools, confusion among students, and division in communities. They violate not only basic decency but also legal protections. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination — it does *not* require the exclusion of transgender or intersex athletes. The Maine Human Rights Act has protected gender identity since 2005. Any effort to strip Maine's funding for protecting trans people is a federal overreach and a distortion of the law.

Let me be clear: these bills are unconstitutional. They violate state and federal guarantees of equal protection under the law. And beyond the legal implications, they betray Maine's values of fairness, compassion, and inclusion.

We cannot allow national political agendas to dictate policy in our state at the expense of our children's rights and well-being. Passing these bills would not make our communities safer — it would make them more dangerous for all girls, trans and cisgender alike.

I urge lawmakers and fellow Mainers to reject LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 — and to stand with me in *full solidarity* with transgender students, for the sake of *all* our children.

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!"