

Carol Kalajainen
Brunswick, Maine
Maine 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee in written form.

My name is Carol Kalajainen, I live in Brunswick, Maine, and I am writing today as a person of deep Christian faith and a member of HopeGateWay church in Portland.. I am writing to you in opposition to the bills before the committee today, May 8.

As a retired teacher of English Language Learners, I know how important it is for schools to provide a supportive environment in which students can learn without fear of harassment. I have witnessed in my own classroom and the classrooms of my teaching colleagues that effective learning takes place best in a supportive, stress-free environment. As an educator, I can see that these bills under consideration would subject all girls to scrutiny, harassment, confusion, fear and distrust..

How are school administrators supposed to decide who is and isn't trans? By doing a visual "gender check"? How would that work? What about students who are intersex? These bills would open the door for other students and community members to bully and harass girls by accusing them of being trans and lead to the violation of the privacy of Maine women and girls.

As a person of deep faith, I believe it is the responsibility of the Maine community to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all, including those who are outside the Maine norm in any way, whether they speak a different language than most, have a different color skin than many, or are trans. People are people. We all deserve a safe environment in which to live, play, and work. This is a basic civil right.

Our laws already provide that protection, including Title IX which prohibits sex discrimination and does not require a prohibition on transgender or intersex athletes and The Maine Human Rights Act. Changing those protections would harm rather than provide safety and fairness for all.

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!"