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LD 233

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this testimony in opposition to LD 233 and LD 1134.

I am proud to live in Maine a state that is open and accepting of all types of people. These bills don't reflect the Maine that I know.

As a former public-school teacher (34 years teaching middle and high school science) and a mom and grandmother I know that kids need to grow up and go to school in an environment where they are accepted and feel comfortable with who they are. I also know that the purpose of public-school sports and other extra-curricular activities (music, drama, science club) is not to produce pro athletes or film stars but to teach kids important values like perseverance, dedication, self-assurance, and teamwork and that we should encourage all kids including gay and trans kids to participate in these activities.

The issue of trans people in sports needs to be decided case by case. If a youngster has transitioned pre-puberty as a male needing to identify as a female and that individual has never had male hormones to create a "male" body, then they won't have had any masculinizing response. They never were really a "male".

Issues of sports participation needs to be decided in a way that is fair and safe for all students. That's why school districts and sports associations already make rules about who can participate in different sports at different levels. The issues of sports participation are already being handled appropriately by the correct organizations and governing associations to ensure fairness.

Finally, these bills are just plain cruel. They focus on a small group of people who already face struggles and discrimination. Whether we understand trans people or not, we don't want to make life harder for them. Maine is better than that.

Please oppose these LD 233 and LD 1134.