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LD 1337

I am writing to ask that you reject LD 1337: An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters. Exempting privately owned shelters providing emergency service to women from anti-discrimination requirements as detailed in the Maine Human Rights Act is just plain dangerous. Trans women are at greater risk of experiencing violence and homelessness, and it's cruel to increase the barriers these women already face in accessing appropriate shelter. Shelters know how to keep all women safe. Further, amending the MHRA to align with Federal Title IX analysis related to rights of female athletes is dangerous. Banning trans women from playing sports would invite any person to call for an invasive or traumatizing "gender check" on any girl who wants to play sports if she does not conform to their expectations of appearance or behavior, violating the privacy and bodily autonomy of all women and girls.

Proponents claim to be "protecting women" with these outrageous bans, but really all they're doing is trying to harm the most vulnerable members of society and expose all girls and women to scrutiny, harassment, and bullying. If you want to help girls and women, expand and fully fund reproductive health care, from menses through menopause, including birth control, abortion, pregnancy and childbirth; provide funding for childcare, education, and eldercare; close the wage gap between the sexes; and create real, prosecutable penalties for sexual discrimination, harassment, and assault. Please reject this cruel bill.