

Julie Lewis
Rockland
LD 868

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

I am writing to strongly oppose LD 868 - An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools. The changes in this document are discriminatory, unnecessary, and help no one. The continued focus on transgender issues, particularly at the elementary, secondary and postsecondary school level is causing unimaginable harm to students and emboldening bullies to harass not only the trans community but girls as well, with taunting accusations. The changes are a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist.

I would ask that you trust the professionals. Trust the American Academy of Pediatrics, the doctors, the nurses, the mental health professionals, the educators, the Maine Principals Association, the teachers and the coaches. Trust the children and their families. All of these professionals should and do support students – ALL students, regardless.

I raised two boys and a girl equally and taught them to challenge traditional gender roles, demand equal education opportunities, take risks, speak up against injustice, dream big, and embrace failure. My daughter taught her brothers what it meant to “fight like a girl” and “run like a girl” every time she beat them in competition and trust me, they never gave her a head start on anything.
Thank you for your consideration.