

Kim Michel
Waldoboro
LD 1337

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Kim Michel, I'm a resident of Waldoboro testifying in opposition to LD1137. This bill would make all Maine women less safe by exempting privately-owned shelters that provide emergency services from current and well established anti-discrimination requirements.

Changing current Maine law around who can participate in sports would also help no one. There are already sports governing associations in the state that have appropriately considered rules around sports participation that ensure fairness.

Athletic success isn't only determined by gender, and being a trans athlete does not automatically confer benefits. As with any athlete, individual abilities, training and conditioning vary widely among trans athletes. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination and does not require prohibitions on trans or intersex athletes.

In order to enforce this bill that would change the landscape of sports and emergency service shelters across the state, Maine women could be subject to traumatizing, invasive processes to prove their sex or gender. Please vote "ought not to pass" on LD 1137. Thank you.