

Kyle Mitchell
Portland
LD 1704

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Portland, Maine
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Kyle Mitchell, I'm a resident of Portland, and I am here on behalf of my loved one's and friends who work in the Maine Public School system. I am writing to you in opposition of the bills before the committee.

As someone with a partner who works in the Maine School system and a nephew in elementary school I know these bills would do only harm to our local communities and schools. School should be a place for a child to feel safe and supported no matter what. Extracurricular activities through school should only enhance that environment. It can be hard for some kids to connect with their classmates during the school day so the after school sports and activities provide them a space to work as a team and support one another. In the current age of technology we want to encourage kids of all ages and genders to participate in sports and team activities.

These bills open up all girls to being the subject of bullying and scrutiny from peers, spectators, and their community. Regardless of who they are, if some is on the receiving end of bullying directly related to their sport it is going to drive that person away from participating and take away a huge positive in their life.

There are governing bodies connected to all sports, whether it is at a highschool or middle school level to professional. Those governing bodies have already put into play rules around who can play in what sport at different levels. It should be their job to make these decisions and ensure that our sports are as fair and safe as possible for all of our kids.

Passing these laws would reward the federal government's bullying tactics towards Maine and open the door to further attacks on our civil rights. These further attacks will not lead to Maine being a safer and more fair state for anyone.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!