

April 29, 2025

RE: LD1337 – An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters

My name is Douglass Moore, and I live in Sabattus. I am testifying in opposition to LD1337.

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1337 – The “Women’s Safety... Except for Trans Women” Act

I am writing in strong opposition to LD 1337, a bill that’s clearly designed with the best of intentions: to keep women safe. But not *all* women. Definitely not trans women, who this bill conveniently forgets when talking about “female athletes” and “shelter.” Because why treat them like human beings when you can treat them like *political props*?

This bill suggests that the best way to protect women in shelters and sports is to restrict access based on a person’s gender assigned at birth. It’s like saying, “Sure, let’s protect people who are genuinely in danger... but only if they meet the right checklist of ‘who gets to be a woman’ as defined by people who haven’t done any research since 1952.” Brilliant. Maybe next we’ll get a bill that requires us to ask for someone’s “appropriate” gender label from the 1950s before they can use the restroom. That’ll fix everything!

But here’s the truly infuriating part: this bill doesn’t even try to offer *any* protections for transgender or nonbinary people in a different, more “acceptable” way. No, instead of making an effort to adapt protections to include them in a meaningful way, this bill simply *excludes* them from existing protections altogether. It’s as if someone said, “We’ll be as inclusive as possible—except for the people who need inclusion the most.” It’s like being told the lifeboat is full, but they just pushed someone off who can’t swim.

Now, let’s talk about safety—because it’s clearly the heart of this bill, right? The greatest risk to women’s safety, by a wide margin, is straight men. And that’s not some theory. It’s an undeniable, statistically backed reality. If we’re really concerned with women’s safety, maybe we should focus on the men who make up the majority of perpetrators of sexual violence and domestic abuse—not trans women who, by all available data, are far more likely to be victims of violence than aggressors. But no, instead, we’re focusing on creating laws that specifically target the least likely group to pose any risk.

And let's not ignore how dangerous this could be for a trans woman who is forced into a men's shelter. Imagine being sent to a facility where you are exposed to the very real threat of violence—not from other women, but from men. Trans women in shelters are already at an exponentially higher risk of harm and violence compared to their cisgender counterparts. This bill is essentially condemning vulnerable individuals to harm by disregarding their identity and safety. And for what? To appease the unfounded fears of people who think trans women are a threat, when they are more likely to become victims in these situations.

Now, let's talk about trans girls in sports—the so-called “hot topic” that this bill pretends to address. It's almost as if someone saw a few headlines, panicked, and decided to start legislating. But here's the thing: this issue is way over-simplified. Trans girls in sports are not some great, looming danger to women's sports. The reality is much more nuanced. Trans girls are statistically far less likely to dominate any sport, let alone take away opportunities from cisgender girls. If you want to talk about fairness in women's sports, how about focusing on the fact that women's sports have been chronically underfunded, under-prioritized, and sidelined in favor of their male counterparts for decades? But no, instead, we're focusing on a tiny minority of trans girls who just want the same opportunities to play, compete, and participate as everyone else. The conversation about trans athletes is being framed like it's some giant, unfair advantage when the reality is just the opposite.

The idea that trans girls pose any real threat to women's sports is as absurd as saying a light breeze poses a threat to an Olympic sprinter. This isn't about women's safety. If it were, we'd be focusing on, you know, the actual threats—like domestic violence or lack of affordable housing for women in need. But no, let's waste time trying to legally keep someone out of a shelter based on *who they are* instead of what they might need.

And regarding female athletes—give me a break. The real threat to women's sports isn't trans athletes (who by the way, are already competing at elite levels without causing mass destruction)—it's underfunding, lack of opportunities, and patriarchal systems that keep women's sports in the basement. If you're worried about “fair competition,” how about worrying about the fact that most women's teams don't even get the same locker room space as the boys' teams?

LD 1337 isn't just a policy; it's a shining example of how we can take a perfectly good concept (women's rights) and twist it into a weapon to divide and exclude. This bill isn't just exclusionary—it's lazy. There's no attempt to make real accommodations or protections for transgender and nonbinary people, just the

convenient slap of exclusion, so lawmakers don't have to do the *hard work* of actually thinking through how to balance complex issues.

The last thing we need is more laws telling people that their identity doesn't count—because we all know how well that worked out in the past.

Please, for the love of common sense, vote NO on LD 1337. Let's stop making life harder for people already dealing with enough.