

Kat Moraros
YARMOUTH
LD 868

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Yarmouth, 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 Kat Moraros, I'm a resident of Yarmouth. I am writing in opposition of Bill LD 868 before the committee this morning.

I am a nonbinary, adult professional theater artist who frequently tours educational programs into schools and lead workshops in classrooms with students. I know that these bills would hurt Maine schools and communities.

Schools should create a supportive environment where every student can receive an education and participate in school activities. School climates are improved when more children participate in extracurricular activities. Participating in sports teaches important values like perseverance, dedication, self-assurance, and teamwork. We should want more young people to play sports, not put up barriers for girls across Maine that subject them to invasive interrogation or make them risk public ridicule. Bill LD 868 is discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore is not constitutional. Any attempt to strip Maine's federal funding for protecting trans people is a federal overreach. Passing this would reward the federal government's bullying tactics and open the door for further attacks on Mainers' civil rights, but it won't make Maine more safe or fair for anyone.

Banning trans and non-binary students from using the bathrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identities is bullying. It is abusive. It is morally wrong. Schools should be a safe place for ALL students, not just the majority whose gender identity aligns with the one they were assigned at birth.

I urge you to consider that trans students and nonbinary people like myself are simply living as who we are meant to be. Trans people are not actively causing harm to anyone – whereas these Bills WOULD actively cause harm to them. The number of trans students in Maine is so small, and targeting them with discriminatory laws not only sets our great state backwards in terms of protections, but also opens them up for bullying, assault, or worse.

Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on this bill.

Thank you!