

Kylie Morel
Bridgton, Maine
May 7, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Kylie Morel, I'm a resident of Bridgton and I am writing with deep concern and urgency as a parent, middle school softball coach, and a person of faith, in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As a Mainer and a youth softball coach, who believes deeply in fairness, dignity, and safety for all children, I'm writing to urge you to oppose the bills that would ban transgender girls from participating on school sports teams. On the field, I see firsthand what sports are really about: teamwork, confidence, joy, and growth. Kids aren't focused on gender — they're out there to have fun, build friendships, and push themselves. These bills threaten to take that experience away from some of the kids who need it most. 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. There's no evidence that transgender participation in school sports causes harm — but there's overwhelming evidence that exclusion and targeting lead to increased bullying, mental health crises, and worse outcomes for all students, not just those who are transgender.

This legislation isn't about fairness — it's about fear. Maine already has policies in place that support equal opportunity while maintaining the integrity of school sports. These bills do nothing to solve real issues facing our students. Instead, they open the door to harassment, bullying, and discrimination — not only against transgender girls, but against *all* girls who don't fit someone else's idea of what they "should" look like or how they "should" play. Any attempt to enforce this ban blatantly violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls. These proposed bills don't protect students — they hurt them. They send a message that some kids don't belong, and that discrimination is acceptable in our schools. That's not the Maine I know and love.

Please don't let Maine be swept up in a harmful national political agenda. I urge you to oppose these bills and instead stand firm in protecting the civil rights of all students. Maine should be a leader in inclusion and fairness — not a state where kids are singled out and harmed for who they are. Please vote no on these dangerous proposals and keep our schools safe, welcoming, and just. Protect the rights and well-being of *all* Maine students, on and off the field.

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

Thank you!

Kylie Morel