

Testimony of Alice A. Neal, Whitefield, Maine in Opposition to LD 233, An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School; LD 868, An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools; LD 1002, An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate; LD 1134, An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities; and LD 1704, An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex

May 8, 2025

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Alice Neal and I am a resident of Whitefield, Maine and a civil rights attorney. I have worked in the area of civil rights for over 15 years in the State of Maine. I oppose LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704 because the bills, if enacted, would detrimentally impact Mainers. The bills, if enacted, would also be in direct opposition to the Maine Constitution. Article 1, Section 6-A states, in part, that “no person shall . . . be denied the equal protection of the laws, nor be denied the enjoyment of that person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof.”

As a civil rights attorney, the ability for people to be free from discrimination is paramount to me. I have advised people and represented people in private actions. I worked as an investigator at the Maine Human Rights Commission for over seven and a half years. I currently do housing discrimination work.

I have long believed in the rights of our youth and their equal access to education, including facilities, services, and activities. I sat in on the Maine Human Rights Commission hearing that ultimately became *Doe v. Clenchy*, addressing the rights of a transgender youth to access bathroom facilities at her school. I have co-presented on presentations on the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and their rights over time.

Our youth deserve all of the protections that the law can afford them, not to create and sanction an environment that further others our youth during their most vulnerable years. This extends to basic respect by calling the youth by their name and pronouns, no matter what is on their birth certificate. This extends to allowing youth to engage in team sports, lodging, and basic daily activities.

There are no alternative measures or modifications that would make the proposed changes or creations, respectively, to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, or LD 1704 workable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I urge the Committee to vote “ought not to pass” on LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704.