

Emily O'Neil
Portland, Maine
May 8, 2025

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

My name is Emily O'Neil, I'm a resident of Portland, and I am in opposition of all the bills before committee on May 8, 2025: LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 308.

The sum of these bills violate the Maine Human Rights Act, Title IX, and both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection for students in schools. In no situation is removing a group of people's human rights protections the answer.

As a female athlete and a lifelong Mainer, I see the above bills as an attack on the privacy and well being of all of us, especially women and girls. These bills will open new and deeply violating channels for the judgement and policing of all of our bodies, cis and trans alike.

There are already safety measures in place to keep our students safe and within reach of equal opportunities, to protect shelter residents, and to maintain our constitutional rights. The proposal to strip those rights away from anyone is absurd and unwarranted. Please think of the big picture and the ripple effect of repercussions this will have on all of us in this hostile climate.

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