

Jillian Reihl
Belgrade
LD 1134

My name Jillian Reihl (she/her) and I am a resident of Belgrade, Maine. I am writing today to oppose all of the anti-trans legislation currently before this committee.

I was born and grew up in Central Maine. In high school I played soccer and ice hockey. I was fortunate to directly benefit from the changes Title IV brought. Our parents and coaches fought for us and used this law to get access to public school resources so that a girls team could be started. For me, that team was about having a place to belong and be part of a community. It was about learning skills and confidence. Never once did I think I would be a competitive hockey player. The vast majority of youth athletes are just like I was, a young person looking to belong and have fun.

I am now the mother of a five year old child and I hope that regardless of who she grows up to be, how she identifies, or who she loves, Title IV will continue to protect her and all youth athletes, including trans youth, have equal access to school athletics.

As I watched today's testimony I was struck by the wisdom and knowledge shared by doctors, community leaders, and faith leaders. Most of all, though, I was touched, and also heart broken, to hear the lived experiences of trans people. I hope you will take heed of their wisdom. I am proud that so many families have chosen to make Maine their home because they view it as a safe place. We also moved back to Maine because we too saw it as a safe place to raise our daughter. Please vote "ought not to pass" and keep Maine a place that is safe and inclusive.