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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder 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

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

LD 1337, An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters

LD 1432, An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Representative Amy Roeder and represent House District 23, which includes a portion of Bangor. I write to you in strong opposition to this slate of anti-trans legislation – not just because it's cruel and unconstitutional, though it absolutely is – but because it is a manipulative distraction from the urgent work Mainers actually elected us to do.

These bills do *nothing* to fix the real problems people are facing.

They don't make rent affordable. They don't lower grocery prices. They don't address the housing shortage or the broken healthcare system or the fact that parents are drowning on waitlists for child care. They don't help a single worker struggling to get by or our neighbors who are trying to age in place. They don't even fill in one solitary pothole. In short, they don't solve a single actual crisis in our state.

What they *do* is target vulnerable kids and families in a cynical ploy to manufacture outrage and rack up clicks, likes and headlines. And let's be honest – we've all seen this strategy before. Provoke, posture, go viral. Treat public service like it's a personal brand strategy.

Some folks are here to do the work – dig through policy, listen to constituents and negotiate real solutions. Others show up when the cameras are on. And when the cameras leave? They're gone, too.

Mainers deserve better than that. They deserve leaders who won't trade in cruelty for attention or weaponize fear for their own political ambitions. And let's be clear: a lot of the people pushing these bills know exactly what they're doing. They *know* these proposals won't hold up in court and they *know* they don't solve real problems, but they push them anyway, not out of conviction, but out of calculation.

That's not leadership. That's cowardice wrapped in amateur theatrics.

And it's all the more offensive coming from those who claim to be champions of freedom and defenders of the Constitution – while simultaneously pushing some of the most invasive, anti-freedom, government-knows-best policies we've seen. You cannot call yourself pro-liberty while trying to dictate how families raise their children and who gets to exist in public.

This is not governing. This is performance. And Mainers – hardworking, compassionate, struggling Mainers – deserve more than a legislative circus.

I urge you to reject these bills and return this body's focus to where it belongs: building a safer, freer, more equitable Maine for *everyone*.

Thank you.