

Tyler Rukstales
Waterville
LD 1134

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Tyler Rukstales and I am a constituent of Waterville. I am writing this testimony on behalf of my transgender peers and the community as a whole. I am testifying against LD1134. I will keep this short. There is no real threat to having transgender athletes participate in school sports and events. Throughout my years of both middle school and highschool, I have participated in mixed sex sports. When I was in soccer in middle school, the girls and boys teams would scrimmage against eachother every few weeks. There was never any real threat, and everyone participated in good sportsmanship and respectful conduct. While biological males are typically stronger than biological females, children do not have as many biological differences as adults. Even then, the typical transgender adult is placed on hormone therapy, which transforms their body in ways that take away certain advantages. For example, transgender women will notice a loss of muscle mass, as well as lower energy and libido levels. Body fat will redistribute, giving them a more feminine build. The blatant lack of understanding and distribution of misinformation when it comes to transgender people is astounding. There is no real threat for transgender girls to play in sports, and if there is it should be up to the school board to decide on a case to case basis, and not dictated by the state. This is not a glaring issue in Maine, there are not droves of transgender girls destroying their competition and beating cisgender children. There is very little document of transgender athletes in Maine, and the focus should be on larger issues within our schools and communities (such as school funding and educational funding) and not on bullying children. As for transgender girls and students using female bathrooms, there is no reason we should prohibit children from using whatever bathrooms they are most comfortable in. Everyone needs to use the restroom, there should be no reason why there is so much concern over maine's children needing to use the toilet. Let children use the bathroom in peace. If you force transgender girls to use the male's restroom, you may be subjecting them to bullying, harassment and assault, as they are likely socially transitioned and that can put a large target on their backs when placed in men's only spaces. Let maine's children use the bathroom in peace.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on LD1134