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May 8, 2025

Testimony Offered to Members of the Judiciary Committee
In Opposition to the Following Bills

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
LD 380 - An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services
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

My name is Linda Sadoff. For the past 25 years, I have worked as a psychotherapist, helping individuals and families in our community with a wide range of mental health concerns. My practice has included counseling with Maine citizens who are transgender, and also with parents of transgender children. Before becoming a therapist, I worked as an attorney for over 20 years. I have friends, neighbors, and an in-law who identify as transgender.

I am testifying in opposition to this proposed legislation because it conflicts with my core values as a human being, and is contrary to the values I have endeavored to pass along to my two children. It also conflicts with the most important aspirations held by those founding our country, that all people are created equal. While we may often fail in reaching this aspiration, we continue to aspire toward freedom, equality and dignity for all.

This proposed legislation is based on false premises, which include the following:

- a. transgender people pose a threat to women;
- b. transgender individuals are not at risk, and so don't need protection against discrimination;
- c. transgender individuals should not have a right to the health care they chose;

- d. Maine citizens should be forced, if they are transgender, to adhere to rules about their identity which are contrary to their own wishes and realities;
- e. the proposed legislation will keep Maine children and families safe.

These bills utterly fail to advance any legitimate public policy, and instead will deprive our friends, neighbors and family members of the very human rights which define us as a country.

Bills such as these are part of an effort to create a climate of division, of “us versus them”, and will cause harm to the sense of community and kindness which we are fortunate to enjoy in our Maine cities and towns.

Thank you very much for considering my views.

Linda Sadoff

Linda Sadoff
Hallowell
LD 233

The attached document is offered as written testimony in opposition to the following bills:

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