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*Testimony of Rep. Sue Salisbury in opposition to*  
**LD 233, LD 380, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337 and LD 1432**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Sue Salisbury, and I represent House District 128, which includes part of Westbrook. I am here today to testify in strong opposition to **LD 233, LD 380, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 1704.**

When submitting testimony for or against a piece of legislation, I often try to avoid personal feelings and instead focus on the bills policy. However, I find that I strongly oppose these eight pieces of legislation from both a policy perspective and a moral one. These bills go directly against my personal beliefs.

I believe that trans females are female. I believe that trans males are male. I believe in the Maine Human Rights Act, which protects “individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and credit. It prohibits discrimination based on various protected characteristics, including race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, religion, age and more.”

School oftentimes is the only safe place for students. It is all too common that students do not feel welcome at home. Some may face torment or abuse that is so bad they have to leave their homes for their own safety. There are frequent instances of children who are members of the LGBTQ+ community that live in homes with parents or other family members who do not accept them for who they are. Allowing these students to live as their authentic selves in school by using a different name or dressing as their gender identity goes a long way toward protecting their mental health. This simple action shows students they are heard and their feelings are valued.

The bills presented are in response to one trans athlete participating in track and field events. Submitting eight pieces of legislation in response to one transgender student, or even two, out of tens of thousands of high school athletes in Maine, is akin to scooping ice cream with a bucket loader. This is a fear response about another person merely trying to live their best life. Trans students are not trying to hurt other students. They aren't trying to cheat to get ahead. They just want to live healthy and happy lives like the rest of us.

I urge you to vote “Ought Not To Pass” on each and every one of these bills. Thank you.