

Carleigh Sawyer
Warren
LD 1337

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Warren, Maine
May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Carleigh Sawyer and I am a resident of Warren. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I am opposing these bans because they invite any person to call for an invasive or traumatizing “gender check” on any girl who wants to play sports if they think she is “too tall” or “too strong”. Bans embolden spectators, community members, and fellow competitors to bully and harass girls by accusing them of being trans. Any attempt to enforce this ban blatantly violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls. These bans empower schools to engage in policing adherence to gender norms, which unfairly scrutinizes girls’ bodies, and have been shown to affect girls of color even more. These bans will cause fear, distrust, and confusion for students, families, and educators.

Trans women in Maine already face serious barriers to accessing appropriate shelter—not to mention disproportionate risks of violence—when they are unhoused. Shelters know how to keep all women safe and have been doing it for years.

Repealing Maine’s Shield Law would subject Maine’s already-strained healthcare infrastructure to out-of-state criminal prosecutions for providing standard-of-care health care as legally allowed in this state. Maine state law has allowed doctors and patients to safely give and receive the care they need, and LD 380 would especially cause great harm to health care providers.

Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection

LD 233, LD 868, and LD 1134 are discriminatory on the basis of sex and therefore are not constitutional.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on these bills. Thank you!