

Cyrus Shahan
Portland, ME
8 May 2025

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

Firstly, I thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee on this matter of importance to me, my community, and people across the state of Maine. My name is Cyrus Shahan and I am a resident of Portland, Maine, and I write on behalf of my students and my communities at home, work, and beyond. I write today in **strong opposition to the bills** before the committee today that seek to restrict, treat differently, and marginalize trans people, trans athletes, and women and girls in our communities.

These bills will do explicit harm to my students, because they **blatantly violate the privacy of all Maine women and girls**. These bills embolden spectators at sports events, but even in non-sports related events, but more insidiously, anonymously online, to **bully and harass girls and women at will**. These bills set up women and girls for marginalization and discrimination based upon their identity.

Women and girls are already the target of relentless attacks and pressures—from representations of body image to representations of intellectual ability—and these bills will only embolden those who seek to make ever more difficult the lives of people who are already targets. And not just metaphorical targets, as countless attacks on trans people and women have shown, threats against trans people, much like threats against women, are sadly, very violent and real. Please do not create laws that will explicitly marginalize trans people in our communities.

Lastly, these bills being introduced are in **clear violation of both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection**. If it takes protections away from some, the Maine State Legislature would create a pathway for violating state and federal laws to take guaranteed protections away from us all.

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.

Sincerely,
Cyrus Shahan