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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments to the Committee. We are residents of Falmouth Maine, Barbara is a retired health lawyer and teacher of public health law and ethics and Peter is a retired cardiologist. We are writing today in opposition to all the anti-transgender bills before the committee today. None of these bills have been written to protect children. In fact the point of these bills is to further marginalize transgender children and adults who are already subject to violence and intimidation. The point of these bills, both those directed at schools as well as those attempting to rewrite longstanding Maine's anti-discrimination laws, is to strip transgender people of basic human rights.

These bills are aimed to "solve" a non-existent problem - 1 or 2 transgender girls who dared to participate in school sports. So why are we here today with this cluster of bills addressing a non-issue? This is all part of a national effort to marginalize and demonize transgender children and adults. We understand that our federal government is attempting to ban transgender soldiers from our armed forces as "untrustworthy". These Maine bills under review are spawn from the same discriminatory intent.

As family members of transgender relatives we know firsthand the barriers and hate that they face on a daily basis. We urge the Judiciary Committee to reject these bills that are purely designed to intimidate, bully and further marginalize a very vulnerable population.