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LD 233

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Rachel Stamieszkin. I am from Cape Elizabeth, and I am a person who cares about human rights.

I support the rights of all students including LGBTQ students. As a group, the new bills, LD233, LD868, LD1002, LD1134 and LD1704 are discriminatory against all students as they will encourage separation and bullying of any person who doesn't fit the stereotype of their gender. It will cause the violation of individual privacy and create division in our schools. I fear that these bills seek to exclude a vulnerable group of students with a one-size-fits-all rule even though individuals are different.

Some people are using trans athletes as a weapon to further an agenda to roll back civil rights of LGBTQ people, people of color, women, immigrants, and many others. Let's not make Maine a place of Division – let's keep Maine a place of safety and inclusion for ALL.

For these reasons, please vote "Ought not to pass" on all of these bills. Thank you.