

There is a rising tide of cruelty being pushed into Maine politics — and it's coming for our children, our schools, and our communities.

A series of anti-trans bills are making their way through the State House right now. These bills don't solve a single real problem. What they *do* is target, bully, and endanger transgender youth under the false flag of "fairness." Make no mistake: these bills are acts of cruelty, not protection.

Banning trans kids from sports, forcing invasive "gender checks," and encouraging public harassment of girls who don't fit some outdated stereotype — this is not the Maine way. These bills don't just harm transgender students; they put all girls and non-binary kids at risk of humiliation, bullying, and abuse. Imagine being a 13-year-old girl, simply wanting to play soccer with your friends, only to be questioned about your body because you're "too tall" or "too strong." It's shameful.

Mainers have always valued fairness, privacy, and dignity. Passing these bills would shred those values. They will sow fear in our schools, drive wedges between young people, and give bullies new weapons to hurt those already vulnerable. Participation in sports should be about teamwork, perseverance, and joy — not about policing gender norms or subjecting kids to public scrutiny.

This push is part of a much larger, disturbing trend: the same politicians trying to monitor restrooms, control our classrooms, and restrict access to healthcare are now attempting to legislate cruelty in our communities. It's government overreach disguised as "concern" — and Maine people see right through it.

It's also unconstitutional. Title IX protects against sex-based discrimination, and the Maine Human Rights Act has protected gender identity since 2005. These bills are not only wrong morally; they are illegal, dangerous, and invite further federal interference in Maine's right to govern itself.

We must be clear: Maine stands for dignity, fairness, and respect. We reject cruelty disguised as legislation. We reject bullying disguised as "protecting girls." And we absolutely reject these anti-trans bills.

Every young person deserves the chance to play, to learn, and to grow without fear of harassment or discrimination. That's the Maine I know. That's the Maine worth fighting for.

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