

Ella Tabasky
Brunswick
LD 233

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

My name is Ella Tabasky, and I am a Brunswick resident writing to express my strong and unequivocal opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704. These bills are not about protecting safety, fairness, or student well-being. They are about excluding transgender and non-binary students from fully participating in their school communities. And they are deeply harmful.

Transgender and non-binary youth are not a threat to safety or fairness. They are students who simply want to exist – to learn, play sports, use the bathroom, and be addressed with dignity. These bills treat them as a problem to be solved or a danger to be feared. That is both dehumanizing and dangerous.

There is no evidence that allowing trans girls to play sports or use the correct facilities causes harm. In fact, denying them those rights leads to increased isolation, bullying, depression, and suicide risk. Every major medical and psychological association, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association, supports the inclusion of trans students in alignment with their gender identity.

These bills would strip schools of their ability to create inclusive, student-centered policies, substituting political fear for educational judgment. These bills do not protect students; they put them at greater risk.

Please vote ought not to pass on these bills. I urge you to reject fear and cruelty and instead choose inclusion and safety. Please vote to ensure Maine is a place where every student has the right to be seen, supported, and treated with respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration.