

Finn Teach
Portland, Maine
May 2, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Finn Teach, and I live in Portland. **I am writing in opposition to LD 1134: *An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities*.**

As a transgender person, I know firsthand what it feels like to be told you don't belong—especially in spaces where you're just trying to learn, grow, and participate like any other student. Bills like LD 1134 don't make schools safer. They make them hostile and divisive.

This legislation would ban transgender girls from playing sports and using school facilities that align with their gender identity. The language of the bill is intentionally vague—what exactly counts as a “female facility”? A restroom? A locker room? A dormitory? We've had these debates before in Maine, and we've moved forward. LD 1134 would drag us backwards more than a decade, reopening questions that have already been settled with compassion, clarity, and fairness.

Let me be clear: trans girls are girls. They belong on teams. They belong in locker rooms. They belong in schools that treat them with dignity. This bill not only excludes trans girls—it puts *all* girls at risk. It invites suspicion and scrutiny of any student who doesn't conform to narrow gender stereotypes. A tall girl, a strong girl, a girl with short hair—any of them could be accused, questioned, or harassed. That's not fairness. That's fear-mongering.

These bans are not just wrong—they're unnecessary. Schools and athletic associations already have guidelines in place to ensure fair participation and safe facilities. We don't need the Legislature to step in with a sweeping, one-size-fits-all rule that helps no one and hurts many. Sports are about teamwork, discipline, and inclusion. They should build confidence, not shame.

And let's not lose sight of the larger legal and ethical implications. LD 1134 violates both the U.S. Constitution and the Maine Human Rights Act, which has protected gender identity since 2005. Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex, and multiple courts have affirmed that this includes transgender students. This bill invites costly legal battles that Maine taxpayers will ultimately have to fund.

Most importantly, this bill sends a cruel message to trans youth: that no matter how hard they work or how much they just want to be part of their community, they are not welcome. That message is devastating. According to The Trevor Project, more than 1 in 4 transgender youth have attempted suicide in the past year. These policies don't protect anyone—they inflict real, measurable harm.

LD 1134 is not about fairness. It is about exclusion. It is about using the power of the state to tell some students they don't belong. I urge you to reject this bill and affirm that all Maine students—*all of them*—deserve respect, inclusion, and the right to thrive.

Thank you.

Finn Teach