

Yvonne Thomas
Vinalhaven, ME
May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Yvonne Thomas and I am a resident of Vinalhaven. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

As a K-12 school counselor for 20 years, I have worked with several students who are transgender. I also have close friends and family members who are transgender.

As an educator, I know that these bills would harm Maine students and further marginalize students who are transgender. I also know how hard it can be for schools to enforce bans and mandates and I am especially concerned about the prospect of invasive or traumatizing 'gender checks' on any girl who wants to play sports but appears 'too tall' or 'too strong'. Maine is already appropriately handling the issues of sports participation fairly. Changes to the law are not needed, they won't help, and they will hurt students who are transgender.

I grew up in the South where there is much less acceptance of difference. I am proud to be a Mainer because Maine is a more welcoming and kind place. These bills, if passed, will change that.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote 'Ought not to Pass' on these bills. Thank you!

Best,

Yvonne Thomas