Aster Varess Norway LD 1337

Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is Aster Varess, of Norway Maine. I am speaking on behalf of myself as a trans person and a former athlete in the maine school system. Please see these bills for what they are - a gambit to control and limit freedom and bodily autonomy. In regards to trans student athletes, studies definitively show that trans athletes are no more likely to do better or worse than their peers in regards to performance. One reason this holds true is simply that there is immense variety in human biology. Another reason is that athletic pursuits have so much more to do with technique, conditioning, and strategy than they do with brute strength. It's clear to me that anyone who entertains the validity of a transgender "ban" in sports has little regard for athletics or athletes. Ultimately, each of these anti-trans bills is a clear attack on bodily autonomy. We cannot entertain any bill that targets a population of people, pushes them further out of society, takes away human rights. We are better than this.