

Nicholas Whiston
North Yarmouth
LD 233

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

My name is Nick Whiston, I'm a resident of North Yarmouth, and I could not more strongly oppose ALL of the bills before you today. Every one of them is based on fearmongering rather than reality or science.

It is vitally important that we uphold Maine's Human Rights Act and prevent discrimination against transgender students, who are some of our most vulnerable. We are a state that champions inclusivity, and for the well-being and success of our young people, we must not fall victim to hate. There is no evidence that transgender youth (or adults) harm anyone. Certainly the two girls in our state who are transgender and compete in high school athletics are not somehow upending sports or competition. It's much more important that young people feel included (and therefore don't succumb to poor mental health outcomes, including suicide) than win high school sports competitions. It's not like Maine is constantly churning out professional athletes (that's one of the great things about our high school sports - they are competitive but still inclusive).

I urge you to reject all the bills in front of you today. They are part of a well-funded national agenda meant to use transgender people as a political prop to distract us from the massive destruction currently occurring in the federal government. If any of the people proposing these transphobic bills actually cared about women's sports or women's rights, there would be evidence of that in recent history. Instead, we've seen the opposite.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Whiston