

Holly Williams
Levant
LD 868

I, Holly Williams, a resident of Levant, am submitting testimony AGAINST LD 868:
An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and
Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools

As a parent of a queer son, I know that if this bill is enacted, it will hurt Maine students, families, schools and communities. Schools are supposed to provide a supportive environment, where all students are welcome to participate in class and in extracurricular activities. When more students participate in these activities, the better the school environment and morale. Students create friendships when participating in activities they all enjoy. It creates community and a sense of belonging for all involved.

But this bill goes even further to hurt trans kids by removing the right to use a bathroom that aligns with their gender identity. Let's be clear. This bill, like the rest being proposed this session, have nothing to do with sports or restrooms. It's a way to ban trans people from having the same rights every human should have. In fact, bills like these are trying to make trans humans appear to not be human at all. If you treat people like creatures, then other people will, too. Just like how the Nazi regime treated Jewish people like animals, like white supremacists treat Black and Brown people like animals. Let's say what this really is: a witch hunt.

How about you start dealing with the issues of your constituents like food insecurity, lack of housing, and substance use problems? Stop wasting our time and start doing your job.

Oh...one more thing...this bill is unconstitutional since it is discriminatory against the basis of sex.

This bill helps absolutely no one.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on this bill. Thank you.