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May It Please the Committee,

I would like to voice my disagreement about this bill. I don't believe that having trans children playing sports is an honest concern in Maine, let alone anywhere in this country. Trans children are such a small percentage of the population that I fail to see how this bill is truly necessary.

Children should be encouraged to play sports. Sports provide many benefits to growing children, both individually and for their community skills. At every level, all should be encouraged to participate.

If a problem arises, I believe that such an issue should be addressed within a community, with people who know the parties involved. The state government getting involved in children's sports is an unacceptable overreach. I guess I just believe in limited government.

Lastly, children going through gender transition can be in a frightening, scary, stressful and confusing stage (both because of being children first, in school second, and feeling gender dysmorphia third). Our children need community connection, not rejection. More doors should be opened to all children, and they should all have a place and role in our communities. Anything that actively denies children a place in a community should be seen as harmful to our society.

Trans kids in sports is not a significant concern deserving of a law. But closing children out of communities is a real concern. Let's spend more time on ensuring that everyone is invited into communities, and less time trying to divide us all.