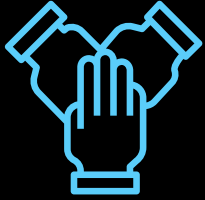




THE MAINE SPORTS TRANS YOUTH BAN: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

LD 926 would ban transgender girls from participating in school sports. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports, it sends the harmful message that they don't belong.



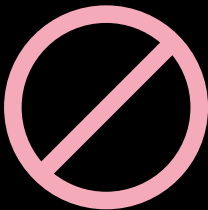
School sports programs teach all girls skills they need to succeed and contribute to the community throughout their lives. Communication, teamwork, self-discipline, leadership, and confidence are essential life skills. We all win when transgender students have equal opportunity to the educational benefits of sports programs.



We all care about fairness for girls in sports. Inclusion of all girls doesn't threaten that. The vast majority of transgender students aren't elite athletes, they just want to play sports for fun, with friends and classmates the same as other girls. All students deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. We shouldn't force transgender girls to choose between being themselves and participating in sports.



This bill came from outside Maine. Similar bills have been introduced in more than 20 states this year. This bill attempts to politicize transgender people's lives. Maine's transgender young people should not be the object of political volleying.



This bill would override sport governing bodies. Transgender participation policies have been in place for nearly a decade in Maine. The legislature should not reach in to override these considered policies with a blanket ban.



Laws targeting transgender girls violate the U.S. Constitution and Title IX. There will be litigation if LD 926 becomes law. In 2020, a conservative federal judge appointed by President Trump ruled that a similar bill passed in Idaho is unconstitutional.



This Bill is bad for Maine. We decided a long time ago in Maine that everyone is welcome and should have the same opportunities to contribute and succeed. In 2014 Maine's supreme court affirmed the right to equal educational access for transgender girls in schools. Maine stands to lose revenue and face expensive lawsuits if LD 926 goes into effect. We cannot afford to waste public funds on an unnecessary and harmful law.