

Finn Teach
Portland, Maine
May 2, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Finn Teach, and I live in Portland. I am submitting testimony in **opposition to the bill before the committee, LD 233: *An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School.***

As a transgender person, I know how painful it is to be singled out and told, explicitly or implicitly, that you don't belong. That's what this bill does. It tells trans girls—young people already navigating the challenges of growing up—that they are a threat, a problem to be legislated away. But it also affects more than just trans girls. As a parent and educator, I'm deeply concerned that LD 233 would put *all* girls at risk of scrutiny, harassment, and invasive “gender checks.”

This bill invites anyone—whether a coach, spectator, or even another student—to accuse a girl of not being “feminine enough” to play sports. If she's too tall, too strong, or doesn't conform to someone else's idea of what a girl should look like, she could be subject to humiliation and exclusion. That's not just wrong—it's dangerous. These kinds of laws empower bullies and embolden discrimination under the guise of “fairness.”

But let's be clear: fairness in sports is already being addressed where it should be—by athletic associations and governing bodies that know the intricacies of competition and development. These organizations already have policies in place that account for age, size, ability, and yes, gender. What this bill proposes is not a solution. It's an unnecessary intrusion driven by fear, not facts.

And the facts matter. According to The Trevor Project's 2023 National Survey, nearly half of trans and nonbinary youth seriously considered suicide in the past year. Creating new laws that exclude, target, and publicly shame them will only push those numbers higher. Trans athletes, like all athletes, vary in ability, drive, and discipline. Being trans is not a competitive advantage—it's just one part of who a person is.

This bill is not only harmful—it's unconstitutional. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and does not require the exclusion of transgender or intersex athletes. The Maine Human Rights Act has protected gender identity since 2005. LD 233 is a solution in search of a problem, and one that violates both state and federal protections.

With so many real challenges facing our schools—mental health crises, under-resourced staff, and economic strain—this committee's time should not be spent pushing through discriminatory legislation that helps no one and harms many. I urge you to reject LD 233.

Thank you.

Finn Teach