

Colleen Brown
Whiting
LD 1002

Chairperson and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Colleen Brown. I am a parent of two daughters, a grandparent, and an educator. I am writing today in support of LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, and LD 1432. These bills address a growing concern that I, and many others, share regarding the erosion of sex-based protections and the need to restore clarity, fairness, and safety in law and policy.

This is not about exclusion. It is about fairness, privacy, and protecting the hard-won rights of women and girls. Title IX was created to ensure that females had equal access to athletic opportunities. Allowing biological males, who possess undeniable physiological advantages, to compete in female sports undermines those protections and puts girls at a disadvantage both on the field and in life.

As an educator, I have seen how opportunities in sports build confidence, leadership skills, and academic access through scholarships. As a parent and grandparent, I am deeply concerned about the consequences of allowing biological males into female-designated bathrooms and locker rooms. These are spaces meant for privacy and safety, especially for young girls. No girl should be told that her discomfort in such spaces is irrelevant.

This issue extends beyond schools and into institutions like prisons and shelters. We are already seeing biological males identifying as female being placed in women's prisons and shelters, creating very real safety risks. In these settings, women cannot simply walk away, and the state has a duty to protect them.

I believe in treating all people with dignity and respect. That does not mean ignoring biological facts or removing safeguards for women and girls. These rights were established long before gender identity became a widely recognized concept. That reinforces a simple truth: sex, not self-perception, was and remains the legal foundation for these protections.

What message are we sending to our daughters when we say fairness no longer matters, or that their safety is secondary to ideological trends? This is not progress. It is a step backward.

I urge the committee to vote in favor of these bills and reaffirm the value of sex-based distinctions in law and policy. Maine has the opportunity to lead with clarity and courage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Colleen Brown
Whiting, Maine
Parent, Grandparent, Educator