

Mark Curtis
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LD 233

To the Honorable Members of the Committee,
I submit this testimony in strong support of LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704, each of which aims to clarify and protect the integrity, fairness, and safety of educational environments and athletic programs in Maine's schools.

Support for LD 233 and LD 1134: Protecting Female Athletics

LD 233 and LD 1134 both seek to prohibit biological males from participating in school athletic programs and activities designated for females in schools receiving state funding. These measures are essential to ensure a level playing field for female athletes. Biological differences between males and females can confer significant advantages in strength, speed, and endurance, which, if unaddressed, risk undermining decades of progress in women's sports and Title IX protections.

Allowing biological males to compete in female sports can discourage participation, diminish scholarship opportunities, and compromise the safety of female athletes. These bills reaffirm the original intent of women's sports categories: to provide fair and safe competition for biological females.

Support for LD 868 and LD 1704: Ensuring Equity and Safety in Facilities

LD 868 addresses the designation of athletic teams, restrooms, changing rooms, and housing based on biological sex, ensuring that these spaces remain safe and equitable for all students. Similarly, LD 1704 prohibits school administrative units from adopting policies that allow students to use restrooms designated for the opposite sex. These measures are not about discrimination, but about safeguarding privacy and dignity in intimate spaces. Female students, in particular, deserve assurances that their locker rooms and bathrooms will remain spaces where their safety and comfort are prioritized.

Support for LD 1002: Clarity in Student Identification

LD 1002 requires public schools to use the name and gender specified on a child's birth certificate. This bill provides clarity for school records and ensures consistency in official documentation, which is critical for the administration of educational programs and the protection of children's identities.

Legal and Federal Context

It is important to note the ongoing national debate and legal scrutiny regarding these issues. The federal government has recently taken action against states that do not prohibit transgender athletes from participating in women's sports, citing Title IX and the need to prevent discrimination against female athletes. Maine's proposed legislation aligns with efforts to clarify the application of Title IX and protect the rights and opportunities of biological females in athletics and educational settings.

Conclusion

These bills are not about exclusion but about upholding fairness, safety, and the original intent of laws designed to protect women and girls. They provide clear, consistent standards for schools, support the well-being of all students, and ensure that opportunities and spaces designated for females remain just that -opportunities and spaces for biological females.

I urge the committee to support LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704 to maintain fairness, safety, and clarity in Maine's schools.

Thank you for your consideration.