

Maggie Zall  
Portland  
LD 233

Chairperson and members of the committee,

My name is Maggie Zall, and I am a lifelong resident of Portland. I am writing today in emphatic opposition to 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.

I am a former female student athlete. I competed at both the high school and middle school level with great pride, and like many young athletes, I worked hard, trained seriously, and respected my teammates and opponents. What many people didn't know at the time was that I had a medical condition that caused unusually high testosterone levels for someone assigned female at birth. Despite this, I was never questioned, never investigated, and never excluded. I was treated as the athlete I was... a girl competing in girls' sports.

So when I see a bill like LD 233, I'm appalled. Not just because it targets transgender girls, but because it exposes a stunning double standard rooted in fear, not fairness. The very condition I lived with could've made me a target under this bill's logic. And yet I was left alone because I fit the idea of what a "real girl" looked like. That isn't fairness. That's selective discrimination.

This bill pretends to be about protecting girls' sports. I can tell you as a girl who was in sports: the real threats were lack of funding, lack of media coverage, outdated facilities, and unequal support compared to boys' teams. Transgender girls weren't the threat then, and they aren't now.

LD 233 doesn't protect anyone. It invites schools to surveil, question, and humiliate girls based on how they look, sound, or perform. It forces students to undergo invasive questioning about their bodies, and ultimately, it sends a cruel message to trans youth: "You don't belong." That is not a message any child in Maine should hear from their own government.

As someone who benefited from inclusion, not exclusion, I urge you to vote no on LD 233. Uphold the dignity of all student athletes. Let kids play. Let them grow. Let them belong.

Thank you for your time, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.