

Michael Levey  
Winthrop  
LD 233

To the chairs and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Michael Levey from Winthrop, Maine. I appreciate the opportunity to testify. I oppose LD 233.

I believe that prohibiting transgendered girls from participating in girls sports is an inappropriate one-size fits all rule. There may be times when a transgendered girl athlete, because of physical characteristics, is the the best in the sport. And, there may be times when she is not. A presumption that the skills and strengths of transgendered girls is always superior to all the other athletes is, I believe, inappropriate. Such a presumption is discriminatory and prejudicial and stereotyping.

It makes sense for our local school officials, hired by our elected school committees, who have experience, knowledge expertise, science and facts, to come up with rules that are appropriate. A one-size fits all approach is not.

I further believe that such a prohibition supports and perpetuates the stereotype and prejudicial belief that there is something wrong with a transgendered person. It increases the risk of acts of harassment, bullying and shaming.

Our schools should be places where all of our students, regardless of identity, are treated well, and given a safe opportunity to learn.

I thank you.