

My name is Jennifer Gingrich and I am a resident of Portland, Maine. My testimony in favor of LD 868 is on behalf of New England Women's Solidarity, of which I am Co-Director. NEWS is a feminist organization and we support single-sex school sports and facilities in Maine to protect girls' rights.

We are asking for a return to common sense. Not long ago, everyone knew that males were faster and stronger than females, and that because boys and girls have different bodies, they shouldn't be made to share spaces where they undress with people of the opposite sex against their will.

Schoolgirls in Maine are being made to feel violated by biological males in their bathrooms and locker rooms. In February of 2024, approximately twenty girls staged a walkout from Ellsworth High School in response to a transgender-identifying male student using the girls' bathroom. Girls complained that the trans student filmed them with a phone camera through cracks in the toilet stalls and was masturbating while doing it, but that school officials refused to believe them. The girls stood outside the school holding signs that read "Protect our Bodies" and "I should not be afraid to use the bathroom".¹

In March 2025, Presque Isle student Cassidy Carlisle told the New York Post how she and other girls were made to undress alongside a male student who identified as a girl in their seventh grade locker room, although they did not want to do so.² What are we teaching our young girls when we tell them that their own feelings of body privacy don't matter if a male wants to be in the room where they're undressed?

Even in primary school, boys are stronger and faster than girls³ due to anatomical advantages that become significantly more pronounced with the surge of testosterone that puberty brings, such as larger hearts and lungs, more fast-twitch muscle fibers, narrower pelvises that put less resistance on their lower bodies, and more.⁴ This is simply a biological fact that does not change when someone identifies as the opposite sex.

¹ Robinson, Steve. [Trans Student Had History of Sexual Harassment Prior to Assault, Biting Attack That Left Maine Girl Concussed, Vision Impaired](#). Maine Wire: Oct 9, 2024.

² Thompson, Jackson. [Maine Girl Involved in Trans Athlete Battle Reveals How State's Policies Hurt her Childhood and Sports Career](#). New York Post: March 23, 2025.

³ Brown, Gregory. [Sex-based differences in track running distances of 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1500m in the 8 and under and 9–10-year-old age groups](#). European Journal of Sport Science: February 2024.

⁴ Joyner, Michael. [Evidence on Sex Differences in Sport Performance](#). Journal of Applied Physiology: Jan 2025.

Numerous studies have proven that even after years on cross-sex hormones, male speed and strength advantages cannot be reversed.^{5 6}

Of course all students should be allowed to participate in athletics, but sports are played with bodies, not identities. We should encourage boys' teams to be more welcoming to gender-nonconforming males instead of telling girls that they are obliged to sacrifice their fair chance at honors and opportunities in sports in order to make another group happy.

Critics have said that we shouldn't be concerned about this issue because there are as yet only a few transgender athletes in Maine competing and winning in girls' sports,⁷ but we say that even one girl being cheated out of honors she has worked for and earned is too many. Every girl should have a fair chance to compete and excel in sports.

A recent poll showed that most Mainers on both sides of the political aisle oppose biological males being allowed to compete in female sports.⁸ Maine voters want girls to have their own sports back, and we agree. Give them back their own locker rooms and bathrooms, too. Girls deserve fairness, safety and dignity.

New England Women's Solidarity urges you to vote in favor of LD 868. Thank you.

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⁵ Hilton, E. and T. Lundberg. [Transgender Women in the Female Category of Sport: Perspectives on Testosterone Suppression and Performance Advantage](#). Sports Medicine 51: Feb 2021.

⁶ Heather, Alison K. [Transwoman Elite Athletes: Their Extra Percentage Relative to Female Physiology](#). Intl Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 19: July 2022.

⁷ Zaksheske, Dan. [Another Male Wins Girls' Event in Maine as State is Being Sued by Federal Government](#). Outkick: May 4, 2025.

⁸ Bishop, Bonnie. [Poll: More Mainers Against Transgender Athletes in Women's Sports](#). WMTW News: March 27, 2025.