

My name is Jennifer Gingrich and I am a resident of Portland, Maine. My testimony in favor of LD 1337 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 sports and shelters in Maine to protect the rights of women and girls.

We are asking for a return to common sense. Not long ago, everyone knew that males were faster and stronger than females, and that it was right to offer vulnerable unhoused women shelter among other females for their safety and comfort.

Women who seek out emergency shelters often do so in the aftermath of having been sexually assaulted or battered by men. They should not be made to share sleeping accommodations with any male who claims a female identity while they attempt to heal from male violence. It should not surprise anyone that predatory men will seek out vulnerable women in places like women's shelters if they can access them.<sup>1</sup>

As an example of what can happen when women are denied female-only shelters, consider Toronto, Canada, where the law requires women's shelters to admit anyone who identifies as a woman. A cursory internet search turns up at least three incidents in which men who identified as women were allowed to stay in Toronto women's homeless shelters and were then charged with raping vulnerable female residents. Among the victims were a deaf woman and at least one battered woman who had come to the shelter fleeing domestic violence.<sup>2 3 4</sup>

Sports are another area where common sense is badly needed in Maine law. Even in primary school, boys are stronger and faster than girls<sup>5</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> A. [Protecting Men at the Women's Shelter](#). Feminist Current: September 13, 2020.\

<sup>2</sup> Hunter, Brad. [Women's Shelters Issue Warning on Violent Trans Sex Offender](#). Toronto Sun: June 9, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Brown, John. [Trans Woman Crawled Into Bed With Assaulted Female Resident at Women's Shelter: Police](#). Fox News: April 20, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> [Predator Who Claimed To Be Transgender Declared Dangerous Offender](#). Toronto Sun: Feb 26, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

their lower bodies, and more.<sup>6</sup> This is simply a biological fact that does not change when someone identifies as the opposite sex.

Numerous studies have proven that even after years on cross-sex hormones, male speed and strength advantages cannot be reversed.<sup>7 8</sup>

Of course everyone 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,<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> Maine voters want girls to have their own sports back, and we agree. Give women back our own crisis shelters, too. Women and girls deserve fairness, safety and dignity.

New England Women's Solidarity urges you to vote in favor of LD 1337. Thank you.

**Jennifer Gingrich, Co-Director  
New England Women's Solidarity  
Portland, Maine**

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<sup>6</sup> Joyner, Michael. [Evidence on Sex Differences in Sport Performance](#). Journal of Applied Physiology: Jan 2025.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Heather, Alison K. [Transwoman Elite Athletes: Their Extra Percentage Relative to Female Physiology](#). Intl Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 19: July 2022.

<sup>9</sup> Zaksheske, Dan. [Another Male Wins Girls' Event in Maine as State is Being Sued by Federal Government](#). Outkick: May 4, 2025.

<sup>10</sup> Bishop, Bonnie. [Poll: More Mainers Against Transgender Athletes in Women's Sports](#). WMTW News: March 27, 2025.