

Deborah Crump  
West Paris  
LD 233

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Deborah Crump, my pronouns are she/her and I am a resident of West Paris where I have lived for more than 30 years. I am testifying in 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. This bill would ban any school that receives state funding from allowing transgender girls to participate in school sports.

As I am sure most members of this committee agree, Maine values inclusion, freedom, privacy and bodily autonomy for all. Indeed, the Maine Human Rights Act, first adopted in 1971 and expanded in 2005 to include gender identity under the definition of sexual orientation, ensures all students can participate fully in school life – including school sports – without fear of discrimination. This reflects Maine's strong commitment to providing safe, inclusive environments for all children.

As a Unitarian Universalist who believes in the inherent worth and dignity of all every person, I think this bill is inherently unfair and misinformed. All students need to be allowed to participate in sports of their choice according to their gender identity. Sports should be as fair and safe as possible for all students. That's why school districts and sports associations already make rules about who can participate in different sports at different levels.

Athletic success isn't determined solely by gender. Like other athletes, trans athletes vary in ability, drive and conditioning. Being a trans athlete is no guarantee of great success or failure. In addition, bans on trans athletes open the door to invasive scrutiny of children's bodies based on how they look or are perceived, creating harmful and exclusionary school climates. This is a blatant and dangerous rollback of the values Mainers have championed for decades.

I urge members of this committee to oppose LD 233. Thank you for your time and your work on behalf of all Mainers.

Sincerely, Deborah Crump