

To: Judiciary Committee
From: Elisabeth Bialosky, South Portland, Maine
Date: 5-8-25

RE: Testimony in support of L.D. 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”

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

My name is Elisabeth Bialosky, I am a social worker, and I live in South Portland, Maine.

I am testifying in strong opposition to L.D. 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 have worked with youth the majority of my career. For seven years, I taught middle schoolers and high schoolers in various contents. Sports and generally after school programming was a huge part of many youth’s positive development and this very much included trans youth as well. My fourth year teaching, one of my eighth grade students was a trans girl. She was disengaged at times with school and her classmates. When our school obtained more funding to expand our after school programs and sports, she was immediately interested in joining the soccer team, but wasn’t sure if there was a place for her. Luckily, the coach and her classmates encouraged her to join after the tryout period and we saw an immediate improvement in her classroom engagement. Her grades improved and she gained more friends and adults who could encourage her leadership skills.

During that time, not a single student or parent complained about her gender identity, nor did they treat her differently from any of their other peers. I share the story to highlight how anti trans rhetoric and ideas are often taught and not based on lived experiences.

The idea that trans students make other students less safe is inherit misinformation with no definitive evidence affirming the claim. Banning trans students from participating in sports with their aligned gender identity and peers does not improve public safety. It just makes trans youth feel more alienated and denies them a sense of belonging, which all youth deserve to feel. Sports are a huge part of youth development and all students have a right to participate regardless of their assigned sex at birth.

I respectfully encourage you to oppose L.D.233. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Bialosky