

Sarah LeBlanc
Fairfield
LD 233

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Representative Campbell, and honorable committee members, my name is Sarah LeBlanc, I live in Fairfield, and I would like to tell you why I oppose LD 233.

I was born in central Maine and was raised on a small farm where I worked out in the fields alongside my three brothers. My brothers and I participated in sports throughout school (probably to get out of doing some of the farm chores) but I knew that it was a privilege for me since my mother could not play sports when she was growing up in southern Maryland in the 50s. I remember some girls I played against were stronger and tougher than any of my brothers, which can be quite intimidating, but it also empowered me to work even harder. I learned perseverance, dedication, self-assurance, and teamwork playing softball, basketball, track, soccer, and volleyball. I competed against many competitors with a variety of skill levels. My teams won games and lost games. Each moment was a valuable experience and contributed to my growth as a person. Every female student deserves the right to play girls' or women's sports, and that includes transgender females. These are people who are being their most authentic selves, each and every day, in the face of unnecessary scrutiny, and who deserve our respect and dignity.

This bill goes against what participating in sports is all about: learning to believe in yourself, striving for your best, being part of a team, and always showing good sportsmanship. Instead, it makes kids and young adults feel unwelcome and alone. This bill is not about making kids feel safer, but rather about taking away the rights of a small and vulnerable group of people. Maine is about living free, working hard, and accepting others. This bill is not. I urge you to OPPOSE LD 233, as well as, LD 868, and LD 1134 and to please keep Maine safe and inclusive for all Maine women and girls. Thank you for your time and consideration.