

Heather Veitch  
Yarmouth  
LD 233

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

Hello - my name is Heather Veitch and I live in Yarmouth. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee regarding this important issue. I am writing to voice my opposition to LD 233 - which proposes banning biological males from participating school athletics and activities designed for females when state funding is provided to said schools.

My daughter has been a member of both a women's high school track & field and cross country team, one of whose members is a trans woman. This young woman was a full fledged member of this team, participating fully in every way. She is kind, she is strong, she has been a leader. At no point in these seasons were there any issues regarding her gender. Her teammates respect her and are her friends.

As these seasons progressed a group of deplorable adults began to show up at meets. They were not community members or parents of the athletes. They showed up simply to make a spectacle and to cause an enormous amount of anxiety and fear amongst the team. They were vocal, aggressive and full of hate. In the face of this the team came together. The biologically female members of the team rallied around the trans teammate. They were proud to be her teammates and together they showed a tremendous amount of bravery in the face of frightening and dehumanizing adult behavior. At the state championships I was in awe of the number of young women from other teams who went out of their way to come say hello to this young woman and to voice their support of her presence. It was awe inspiring.

The reality of this situation is that there are 55,000 young people participating in school sports in Maine. It is my understanding that there are only 8 trans women participating. How is this a threat? To allow this to pass would put all young women under the face of more scrutiny that they do not deserve. It would embolden people who want to take basic rights away from the trans community. Trans women are women. Let them participate because it is their right to do so.

Thank you again for allowing me to participate in this critical time. This bill "ought not to pass".

Thank you.