

Mary DiMarco
Houlton
LD 1134

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1134

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

Submitted for the Public Hearing Before the Maine Legislature's Judiciary Committee, May 8, 2025

I am writing to urge you to oppose LD 1134. As a female high school student in the 1970s, I knew the pain of very limited or underfunded athletic opportunities offered to girls and young women. I believe that Title IX was meant to assure that every high school student has the chance to strive for excellence in a sport and compete with peers. I also believe that this law would certainly discriminate against intersex students and those transitioning from one gender to another. It has the potential to also discriminate against girls whose bodies do not match the conventional or who choose to dress or wear their hair differently from other girls. The law could be difficult to enforce without invading the privacy of either certain girls or all girls. Another group who would be left out are biological girls who are taking testosterone to transition to male. Would they be allowed to compete as girls? It seems that they also would be left out.

This issue is complicated and laden with emotion. From what I understand, Maine principals have been able to handle the few individual situations that it is meant to address with compassion for all student athletes. Let's continue to trust these professionals and their communities to find a path that meets the original intent of Title IX. We don't need a rigid law that will hurt this group of young people. There are many ways to solve the problem of providing facilities for all athletes to use in a school building. With some thought, flexibility, and compassion for all, school board members and administrators can make sure everyone is comfortable with the space they use to prepare for athletic competitions. Both parts of this law are unnecessary and potentially harmful.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mary Beth DiMarco, Houlton