

Charles Ellis
Westbrook
LD 1337

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1337, a bill introduced by Rep. Elizabeth Caruso to amend the Maine Human Rights Act to align with federal Title IX guidelines and President Trump's executive order, "Keeping Men out of Women's Sports." I believe this legislation is essential to protect the fairness, safety, and dignity of girls and women in sports and private spaces.

Title IX was enacted to ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in education and athletics. However, allowing biological males to compete in girls' sports undermines this purpose. Biological differences, such as muscle mass and testosterone levels, often provide competitive advantages that can displace female athletes from opportunities, scholarships, and recognition they have worked hard to earn. This creates an unfair environment, not only in athletics but also in academic settings where athletic achievements contribute to opportunities. LD 1337, alongside LD 868, would restore fairness by ensuring sports teams are designated based on biological sex, preserving the integrity of girls' athletics.

Equally important is the need to protect the safety and comfort of girls and women in private spaces like bathrooms, shower rooms, and changing rooms. These are intimate settings where privacy and security are paramount. Allowing biological males to access these spaces can create uncomfortable and potentially unsafe situations for female students, putting them at risk and undermining their sense of dignity. LD 1337 addresses these concerns by ensuring that sex-segregated facilities remain designated for biological females, fostering a safe and respectful environment.

I acknowledge that this is a sensitive issue, and I believe all individuals should be treated with respect. However, fairness and safety for girls and women must be prioritized to uphold the original intent of Title IX. LD 1337 achieves this balance by aligning Maine's policies with federal guidelines, ensuring compliance and protecting our students.

I urge the committee to support LD 1337 and move it forward for passage. Thank you for considering my testimony and for your commitment to serving the people of Maine.

Sincerely,
Chuck Ellis, Westbrook