

Richard Hamill
Topsham
LD 233

Richard Hamill
Resident of Topsham, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Richard Hamill. I'm a resident of Topsham.

School sports are a critical institution--they help shape the people we become. It's imperative that we protect the rights of all students to participate in sports so they can learn the benefit of hard work and effort, how to be a good teammate, and how to win or lose with grace and dignity.

Winning is not always possible, and never supposed to be the point of school competition. That's not the important lesson to be taught. There will always be someone stronger or faster. In the end, each athlete is competing only with themselves. Personal growth is the only reward that matters.

Some kids, regardless of their gender, will have a natural advantage because of genetics, or simply because they were born earlier in the year. That's never the point. We have to protect all the kids. We have to give them all a chance, and we should never measure their success by their win/loss record.

I believe LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380 will harm all children by failing to protect the rights of the most vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you.