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LD 233

Distinguished members of Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide some brief comments regarding LD 233 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.

From my understanding, as this Bill is written, it does not reflect our current scientific knowledge or understanding of the physical development. Today we have advanced scientific knowledge and technology that continues to increase our knowledge, especially around chromosomes (DNA, genes). This knowledge allows our society to be defined by more than male and female designations at birth. This is uncomfortable for some, but I believe it is important to recognize these changes and not hold on to old notions. We have the ability to adjust, accept and welcome all of the unique individuals that today make up our communities.

If elected officials are truly concerned with safety of athletes and want language to reflect that than I would suggest a starting point being the International Olympic Committee guidelines for transgender inclusion which say there should be “no presumed advantage” based on sex assigned at birth or sex characteristics. IOC guidelines were created in consultation with experts in sports, medicine, and human rights.

Maine does not need bills such as LD 233. As a state we are better than this.

Thank you for your time and consideration.