

Abigail Perry
Starks
LD 233

My name is Abigail Perry, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to 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."

I am a Maine resident with a transgender family member. This issue is deeply personal to me because I've seen firsthand the struggles that trans people—especially youth—face in simply trying to live authentically and be accepted. Bills like LD 233, LD 1002, LD 1134 and LD 1704 do not protect fairness—they promote exclusion and reinforce the stigma that already puts transgender youth at disproportionate risk of bullying, isolation, and mental health challenges.

Athletics are not just about competition. They are about teamwork, belonging, leadership, and growth. Every child deserves the chance to participate in school activities in a way that aligns with who they are. LD 233 would single out and ban transgender girls from opportunities that their peers have, sending the message that they don't belong.

Additionally, this bill raises serious concerns about how such a policy would be implemented. Policing students' gender not only infringes on privacy, but it opens the door to invasive practices that could affect all girls—trans and cisgender alike. The potential for harm far outweighs any supposed benefit.

We should be fostering schools where every student is safe, included, and given the same opportunities to succeed. LD 233 undermines that goal.

I urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 233. Let's protect the dignity and well-being of all Maine students.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,