

Kathryn Amato
Westbrook
LD 233

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Committee. My name is Kay Amato and I'm a resident of Westbrook. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today. As an educator who has worked with transgender students for nearly a decade I am certain that these bills, particularly LD 233, would do more harm than good to youth in Maine. School athletic programs should be available to all students who wish to participate and this bill would only serve to exclude and further marginalize transgender girls.

According to GLADD:

"Transgender people make up a tiny fraction of all athletes. NCAA President Charlie Baker testified in December 2024 that he knows of fewer than ten transgender college student-athletes among 510,000 athletes total.

All players follow protocols to participate. International Olympic Committee guidelines for transgender inclusion 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.

Sports bans are part of a systematic and expanding targeting of transgender people and youth that has surged to include their medically-necessary and supported health care, book bans and curriculum bans, and access to the restroom."

To address equity concerns in school athletic programs our state government can and should direct attention to funding gaps, facilities, and harassment faced by female athletes. Please lead with kindness, care, and courage to ensure that all students and children in Maine feel like they belong. Let school athletic programs be about community, sportsmanship, teamwork, and fun! In the words of Bayard Rustin "if we desire a society without discrimination, then we must not discriminate against anyone in the process of building this society." Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you!

Kind Regards,
Kay Amato