

Lara Markovitch  
Maine Youth Power  
LD 233

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Bangor, Me  
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In opposition to LD 1432: Thank you Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Lara Markovitch. I live in Bangor, Maine, and I'm working with Maine Youth Power, a youth-led movement focused on engaging young people across the state to fight for a better future. Today, I'm writing to ask that you oppose 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. As a student at Bangor High, I have seen both the adversity and resilience of various groups during this time. My school community values equal respect and opportunities regardless of gender identity and expression, and I strongly believe that the state must as well. Since hormone replacement therapy causes muscle and fat redistribution all over the body, the narrative that trans women in sports have an unfair advantage has been debunked. As a girl, I have never seen trans rights and opportunities as my oppression. My girlhood has never been threatened by their organizing. While trans people, specifically trans women, are viewed as a threat and used as a scapegoat for real issues, in reality they are one of the smallest and most targeted minority groups. As a young person in Maine, I strongly feel that now more than ever, no matter who you are or how you identify, we need to work together to respect one another and fight for a better future for all of Maine. Once again I ask that you oppose LD233. Thank you for your time.