

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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Laura Whitcomb, I live in Sidney. I write this testimony as a mother of a female athlete, urging you to vote OUGHT TO PASS on this proposal.

My daughter Kristina graduated from high school last year. She played women's volleyball for Messalonskee High School for three years. In her Senior year she was the number one player in her position, middle blocker, for the **entire state**. Not her school, not her Class A pool, the entire state.

Not only was she the best in her position, she was a joy to watch – even parents from the other teams would comment on how much they enjoyed watching her play. She was a leader, a team-player, and an encourager.

She carries those characteristics with her now, as she has always done, in everything she does.

Volleyball is a very dynamic sport. The level of athleticism required is unique, and the skills required take an intense level of practice to become the very best.

In 2022, when my daughter was a junior, a female volleyball player in another state suffered a traumatic brain injury (among other things) from having a male player, who “identified” as a female, spiked a ball into her face. She now has partial paralysis from the injury, and it has altered her life forever.

<https://nypost.com/2025/03/05/us-news/volleyball-star-hurt-by-trans-opponent-say-dems-are-failing-women/>

This was incredibly scary, and discussions started occurring regarding what would Kristina do if she was faced with a male opponent who “identified” as a female. She said she wouldn't play. She would sit out. She would lose the opportunity to lead her team, to build up her #1 stats, to bring to fruition all of her hard work. Because it wouldn't be worth the physical risk, and because women's sports should belong to biological women, not men – and she would stand up for herself, and the truth.

I am so grateful that she never had to have to make this choice in public high school, but I fear for the other girls who are coming up behind her who may face the same decision. It is truly life-altering, and one that shouldn't have to be made by teenage girls. It should be made by the people who are charged with protecting them.

Protect our girls. Honor their diligence in working to be the best in their sports-in Womens' Sports. Honor our girls by voting OUGHT TO PASS.