



Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing as a concerned Mainer, a father of a 16-year-old daughter and a current candidate for Governor, to respectfully urge you to support all the bills before you today that protect the integrity of women's sports and the privacy and safety of women and girls in our public facilities such as restrooms and locker rooms.

This is not an issue of personal identity or self-expression—it is a matter of fairness, safety, and biological reality. Title IX was established to create equal opportunities for women in education and athletics. Allowing individuals born male, who retain significant physiological advantages regardless of hormone treatments, to compete against biological females undermines decades of progress and opportunity for women. Biological males and females differ in a number of physical ways that are critical to the fairness of athletic competition and the integrity of sex-based spaces.

Scientific and Biological Facts:

1. **Physiological Advantage:** Males, on average, possess 10–15% more muscle mass than females and 30–40% greater upper body strength. According to a 2021 review published in *Sports Medicine*, even after 12 months of hormone therapy, trans-identifying males retain about 12% greater running endurance and muscular advantage over females. This is not fair competition.
2. **Bone Structure and Cardiovascular Capacity:** Males have larger skeletal frames, greater bone density, longer limbs, and higher VO2 max (oxygen-carrying capacity), all of which contribute to athletic performance. These advantages are not fully reversed by hormone therapy.
3. **Puberty Effects Are Irreversible:** According to the British Journal of Sports Medicine and the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, the irreversible changes from male puberty—including larger hearts, lung volume, and muscle fiber density—provide lasting athletic advantages.
4. **Safety Concerns:** In contact sports, these physical disparities increase the risk of injury for female athletes. A 2022 study from the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research* highlighted that biological males who have undergone gender transition still pose significantly greater force output in collision-based activities.

Beyond athletics, the issue of access to women's private spaces also raises legitimate safety and privacy concerns. Women and girls deserve to feel safe and secure in environments where they are most vulnerable. Granting access based on gender identity rather than biological sex opens the door for abuse and puts ideological preferences over the basic right to privacy.

This is not about discrimination; it is about maintaining clear, consistent, and scientifically grounded standards. Biology is not bigotry. Ten years ago, if I went into a ladies' locker room or restroom, I would have been arrested. Today, unless you can 100% guarantee me that the motive of every biological male entering these private areas is 100% pure, it is your duty to amend these laws and protect our women.

As legislators, you bear the responsibility to craft laws that balance compassion with common sense, and inclusivity with integrity. You are responsible for protecting all of your constituents, not just 1%. I respectfully urge you to vote "ought to pass" on today's bills that uphold these principles and preserve fairness in women's sports and safety in women's spaces.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to the people of our state.

Sincerely,

Robert Wessels
Maine Gubernatorial Candidate
VoteRobertWessels.com - WesselsForGovernor@Gmail.com



References

1. Hilton, E. N., & Lundberg, T. R. (2021). *Transgender women in the female category of sport: Perspectives on testosterone suppression and performance advantage*. *Sports Medicine*, 51(2), 199–214. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40279-020-01389-3>
2. Handelsman, D. J., Hirschberg, A. L., & Berman, S. (2018). *Circulating testosterone as the hormonal basis of sex differences in athletic performance*. *Endocrine Reviews*, 39(5), 803–829. <https://doi.org/10.1210/er.2018-00020>
3. Harper, J., et al. (2021). *How does hormone transition in transgender women change body composition, muscle strength and hemoglobin?* *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 55(15), 865–872. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2020-103106>
4. Roberts, T. A., Rosario, M., & Koenen, K. C. (2022). *Sex differences in injury rates and biomechanics: Implications for sports safety*. *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*, 36(3), 671–678. <https://doi.org/10.1519/JSC.0000000000003869>
5. World Athletics Database; U.S. High School Track & Field Records. Available via: athletic.net and [MileSplit](https://milesplit.com)

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to ensuring that the rights of women and girls are upheld in both law and practice. I respectfully request your support for this essential legislation.

Robert Wessels
Maine Gubernatorial Candidate
VoteRobertWessels.com - WesselsForGovernor@gmail.com