

David Baker  
Hancock  
LD 233

I am a constituent in Faulkingham's and Moore's legislative districts and a parent of a trans child-- a trans child who is loved and supported by the community--including their high school teachers and coaches. They graduated a few years ago, but never did our family have any issues with participation in any activities (and yes, they played a varsity sport), but when I read the bills that are being proposed, I see nothing that will "protect girls" in school sport or elsewhere in the community. This is clearly just a divisive wedge issue that only gives a permission structure to marginalize kids.

Success in school sports

is really about practice, self-discipline, access to good coaches and facilities, and even money to pay for outside training. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers. These and all kids are already looking at their futures in Maine and the US as uncertain and threatened. It targets a vanishingly small number of families and their children with no upside to the larger community. I ask you to think seriously about why you are in the State House and ask yourself if this is the kind of legislation that will truly help ALL your constituents and not just the uninformed and cowardly who will gain nothing from this bill. This bill only denies rights and opportunities to a tiny number of children. Maine (and especially Downeast Maine) already suffers from a drain of smart, talented youth; please do not support this bill. I want Maine to be a welcoming place for my child and all children to live safely and happily. Unfortunately these bills just create fear and uncertainty. You are better than this.