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Good afternoon. I am a female athlete and the mother of a female athlete who was born and raised in the state of Maine. I wrote my first letter to the main principals association about the unfair treatment of girls in athletics in 1994. I was a state championship cheerleader, whose team was told we needed to practice on the stage, because the boys basketball team needed the gym. Not only were we being told to practice on the stage, which was unsafe, and not even remotely considered an athletic facility, we were asked to be quiet during practice so that we didn't bother the boys basketball team on the other side of the stage curtain. I remember thinking at the time if this is how State championship team gets treated, I wonder what the last place cheerleading squad in the state received for treatment. After I wrote my letter to the Maine principles association I never received a response. I have sent written several more letters in regards to how female athletes are treated in sports. This year, 2024 was the first time I wrote a letter that had anything to do with gender identification. The main principles association has always allowed female athletes to be a scapegoat and I would hope this time the equal, legal treatment of female athletes will finally be put to rest. My daughter should be able to go to the bathroom by herself. My daughter should be able to participate in athletics that do not jeopardize her safety or her ability to win because she is not biologically a man.

I truly hope that common sense prevails today in Augusta and that you realize this has nothing to do with marginalizing anybody except females. They are the only ones having things taken away from them in this situation. I can certainly say that I will consider leaving the state of Maine if my female athletes are not going to be protected by the state. I know many who feel the same. My female athletes are willing to compete fairly and safely and they should not have to sacrifice winning awards, winning scholarships, and being marginalized by men.