

TO: The Honorable Anne Carney - Chair
The Honorable Amy Kuhn - Chair
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

DATE: May 8, 2025

RE: 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

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Christopher Cayer, I work as a political organizer and campaign director, and I live in Stratton, Maine where I was born and raised. I currently serve as the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maine Green Independent Party and I'm here today to testify against LD 233.

I live in a rural part of the state so I had to travel two hours to be here today. I also had to take time off work to be here which is not easy for people who live paycheck to paycheck. Frankly, I'm not happy that I had to make special arrangements to be here today so I could stand up for common sense and basic human rights.

For the past 10 years, I have been working on political initiatives in Maine and around the country. In that time, I've seen dozens of public polls asking Maine voters about the top issues impacting their lives. Not once have I seen a poll that listed transgender student athletes as a top concern. Yet, this legislature has seemingly made this their primary focus, introducing eight bills targeting the trans community. Eight bills?!

Voters want policies that help grow the economy, lower inflation, bridge political division, and make healthcare more accessible. We want programs that help the elderly, veterans, and the unhoused. What we don't want are policies that target the already marginalized. We don't need laws that solve imaginary problems.

LD 233 would implement a ban that blatantly violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls. It would require girls to answer invasive personal questions or undergo physical inspections by strangers if they want to play sports. This is extremely concerning as violence against women and girls continues to be a pervasive human rights challenge. One in three women report being a victim of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. In the world of sports, nearly 21% of professional women

athletes report experiencing sexual abuse as a child in sports – almost double the rate of male athletes. These women are not being assaulted by transgender girls, they're being assaulted by adult men. Which of the bills that we're hearing today will address this issue?

Please do not allow this discriminatory and unconstitutional bill to advance. It's time to stand up for students in Maine and stand with your constituents by voting Ought Not to Pass on LD 233.

Thank you,
Chris Cayer
Stratton, ME
chris.m.cayer@gmail.com

<https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>

https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/3343_unwomen_unesco_vawg_handbook_6a_singlepage.pdf

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/06/24/public-trust-in-government-1958-2024/>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/05/23/top-problems-facing-the-u-s/>

Christopher Cayer
Stratton
LD 233

TO:

The Honorable Anne Carney - Chair
The Honorable Amy Kuhn - Chair
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

DATE:

May 8, 2025

RE:

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

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Christopher Cayer, I work as a political organizer and campaign director, and I live in Stratton, Maine where I was born and raised. I currently serve as the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maine Green Independent Party and I'm here today to testify against LD 233.

I live in a rural part of the state so I had to travel two hours to be here today. I also had to take time off work to be here which is not easy for people who live paycheck to paycheck. Frankly, I'm not happy that I had to make special arrangements to be here today so I could stand up for common sense and basic human rights.

For the past 10 years, I have been working on political initiatives in Maine and around the country. In that time, I've seen dozens of public polls asking Maine voters about the top issues impacting their lives. Not once have I seen a poll that listed transgender student athletes as a top concern. Yet, this legislature has seemingly made this their primary focus, introducing eight bills targeting the trans community. Eight bills?!

Voters want policies that help grow the economy, lower inflation, bridge political division, and make healthcare more accessible. We want programs that help the elderly, veterans, and the unhoused. What we don't want are policies that target the already marginalized. We don't need laws that solve imaginary problems.

LD 233 would implement a ban that blatantly violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls. It would require girls to answer invasive personal questions or undergo physical inspections by strangers if they want to play sports. This is extremely concerning as violence against women and girls continues to be a pervasive human rights challenge. One in three women report being a victim of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. In the world of sports, nearly 21% of professional women athletes report experiencing sexual abuse as a child in sports – almost double the rate of male athletes. These women are not being assaulted by transgender girls, they're being assaulted by adult men. Which of the bills that we're hearing today will address this issue?

Please do not allow this discriminatory and unconstitutional bill to advance. It's time to stand up for students in Maine and stand with your constituents by voting Ought Not to Pass on LD 233.

Thank you,
Chris Cayer
Stratton, ME
chris.m.cayer@gmail.com

<https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>

https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/3343_unwomen_unesco_vawg_handbook_6a_singlepage.pdf

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/06/24/public-trust-in-government-1958-2024/>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/05/23/top-problems-facing-the-u-s/>