

Susan Friend
Waterford
LD 2239

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Susan Friend, I'm a resident of Waterford and I am opposed to the ballot measure, LD 2239.

LD 2239 does not belong in Maine communities; it does not fit in with the way we do things around here. When someone comes to Maine from away, or returns from being away, the first thing they see is a sign welcoming them "Home"; but how can someone feel at home in our beautiful state if they're not even allowed to feel at home in our community? If students aren't allowed to feel at home in their own school?

The proposed ballot measure is an extreme, blanket ban with language that is vague, poorly defined, with a "one-size-fits-all" approach that would be difficult and expensive for schools to implement, causing distraction and chaos, and potentially opening huge litigation risk for schools. Our energy and resources should be spent on addressing inequalities in sports, including lack of funding and unequal access to facilities. But this measure would make schools use their scarce resources on requirements like having staff check ALL students birth certificates in order to use the bathroom...this is absolutely absurd.

Our state laws must protect freedom and fairness: we cannot open the door to laws and government policing or controlling our bodies. This proposal would repeal our foundational Maine Human Rights Act and leave Mainers with fewer civil rights protections.

Can we talk about the fact that this proposal was funded entirely by ONE out-of-state billionaire?

Maine schools claim to hold a "zero-tolerance" stance on bullying, so it's really pretty sad that this proposal has even come this far. Let's not sell out our kids so that some billionaire who couldn't actually care LESS about them can have influence over our 2026 midterm elections.

That's all this – trans kids using the bathroom/locker room that best fits their comfort level and gender identity is a convenient distraction, and only a problem because some rich out-of-stater, who will never truly understand what those of us who work hard and reap very little reward, are actually encountering on a day to day basis. We need to stick together and take care of one another, not allow those who will never walk in our shoes tell us what's best for us and our children.