

Jenna Fowler

Sabattus, Maine

April 13th, 2026

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

My name is Jenna Fowler and I am a citizen of Sabattus. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239. As someone that has worked with young people for most of my working-life, I feel like this proposed bill is extremely out of touch with what Maine youth truly need. The teens that I work with talk to me about daily stressors, things like problems with parents, tough assignments, falling-outs with friends, and occasionally, more dire situations like bullying and abuse. I have yet to have a conversation with a teenager who has had concerns about the presence of a transgender student.

Beyond the fact that this bill is a blanket ban that would infringe upon our foundational Maine Human Rights Act, it does not address the true inequalities that schools face in their day to day operations, and would further impede teachers, counselors, and administration who are trying to teach our youth. Expecting teachers — who are notably underpaid for the work they do and often working in short-staffed institutions — to add this to their plate does not seem like the best use of our tax dollars, nor does it seem like the best way provide quality education for our youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.