

Stephen Majercik
Brunswick
LD 2239

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Stephen Majercik, and I live in Brunswick, Maine. I have lived in Maine for all but six of the last 38 years. For the last 23 years, I was a faculty member in the Computer Science Department at Bowdoin College. I am now retired. I am writing as a resident of Maine and as a Unitarian Universalist to respectfully urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 2239.

Unitarian Universalism affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person and calls us to build communities grounded in justice, compassion, and respect. From this perspective, policies that exclude or single out transgender students are deeply concerning. Schools should be places where every young person is welcomed as they are and encouraged to participate fully in community life.

Maine has a strong and longstanding commitment to fairness and equal access in education. Policies that allow transgender students to participate alongside their peers have been in place for years without evidence of widespread disruption to school athletics. Reversing those policies would undermine that tradition and send a message that some students are less deserving of belonging than others.

As a faith community member, I am especially mindful that legislation like LD 2239 risks isolating already vulnerable young people. Many religious traditions—including my own—teach that our responsibility is not to exclude but to care for those who may be marginalized. Supporting students' ability to participate safely and authentically in school life is consistent with those values.

Decisions about student participation in athletics are complex and are already addressed thoughtfully by educators, administrators, and athletic organizations. A rigid statewide mandate would remove flexibility from those closest to students' needs and substitute broad restrictions for careful local judgment.

Finally, Maine has long recognized that protecting civil rights strengthens communities rather than weakening them. Policies that single out specific groups of students for exclusion are inconsistent with that principle and with the values many people of faith bring to public life.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 2239.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,^[1]
Stephen Majercik^[SEP]
Brunswick, Maine