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

I am writing to you today to express my firm opposition to **LD 2239**. I'll try to keep this brief because I know your calendars are packed with issues that actually impact the daily lives of Mainers, and frankly, I'd hate to see you spend another minute on a bill this vague and counterproductive.

To be direct, this bill feels like a solution in search of a problem. It's written in such a broad way that it would inevitably force our local school districts to waste precious time and even more precious tax dollars navigating legal gray areas. Our schools should be focused on lesson plans, not decoding confusing mandates that don't fit our communities.

What's perhaps most frustrating is that this doesn't feel like a "made-in-Maine" idea. We've all seen the reports about out-of-state billionaires pouring money into these types of efforts to meddle in our local politics. Maine has a long history of independent thinking and looking out for our neighbors; we don't need wealthy outsiders shipping in extreme policies to tell us how to run our classrooms.

At the end of the day, our children deserve a school environment where they feel safe and welcome. This bill would do the opposite—it creates an atmosphere where kids feel like their very identities are under a microscope. No student performs their best when they feel like they're being scrutinized or singled out, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I'd ask that you please do what you can to send this bill back where it came from. Let's stop the culture war and get back to the basics: ensuring our schools have the funding and resources they need to turn our kids into the bright, hardworking adults Maine needs for the future.

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