

The Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Testimony from Jeff Candura
North Yarmouth, Maine

In Opposition to

Ballot Measure LD 2239: An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex

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

My name is Jeff Candura and I am a resident of North Yarmouth. I am writing to express my, and my family's, strong opposition to the ballot measure: An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex

It is clear that recent attacks on transgender youth at the local, state, and national level is not about athletics, or "protecting girls", or fairness. It is about erasing transgender people from our society.

This bill is extraordinarily broad in its impact and extraordinarily vague in its enforcement mechanisms. My wife and I have two sons. One of them happens to be trans. He has lived and moved through the world as a male for the last four years. If this bill passes, he would be forced to use women's restrooms, play on women's sports teams, and change in women's locker rooms. My son looks and sounds like a teen boy. What happens when someone calls him out? Are staff going to be stationed at the bathroom door checking licenses? His correctly states that he is male. Would we ask for two forms of identification? What about those who have updated their birth certificates with a gender that matches their identity?

My son, and we as parents, are continually faced with reminders from politicians that his existence is not as valid as a cisgender brother. We constantly and consistently wonder which space he will be accepted in and which could be a danger. We worry if his health care will be taken away, that he will be forced to out himself to every teacher and classmate, that he will be targeted in a bathroom, jeered from the sidelines by parents while he participates in sports. We never give that a second thought for our cisgender son. This measure would have a devastating impact on his well-being and cause my wife and I to fear for his safety even more than we already do.

This proposal targets a tiny minority of students with a blanket ban that will have massive impacts on all students. It rolls back rights for individuals and further increases government control over schools. It is wrong for our family, it is wrong for our schools, and it is wrong for Maine.

Please oppose this dangerous and discriminatory measure.

Jeff Candura