

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal  
Opportunity Organization*

**TO: Committee on Judiciary**  
**FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee**  
**RE: In Opposition of LD 930: An Act to Allow Only Students of  
Female Gender to Participate in Women's and Girls' Scholastic  
Sport**  
**DATE: May 15, 2023**

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary My name is Michael Bisson, and I am the Assistant Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association, representing 151 public and private high schools that are members of the Interscholastic Activities Division

The MPA Legislative Committee unanimously opposes LD 930 The MPA has a long-standing Single-Sex Team Policy that supports Title IX by not allowing males to participate in female sports at the high school level In January of 1999 this policy was challenged to allow male athletes to participate in the female only sport of field hockey MPA policy was upheld in Maine Superior Court "that permitting boys to compete with girls in field hockey will likely result in an overall lessening of equal opportunities for girls in athletics" This policy is still in effect and protects female sports limited to female only participation in sports such as field hockey, softball, and volleyball

In addition to the Singles Sex Team Policy, from 2013 through 2021 the MPA had a Transgender Participation Policy, later amended to the Gender Equity and Inclusion Policy, that was in place to allow for oversight of participation by transgender athletes in interscholastic activities The policy stated, "Consistent with its principles, the MPA believes that all students should have the opportunity to participate in MPA activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, unless such participation would result in an unfair athletic advantage or would present an unacceptable risk of injury to other student athletes" Over that time the MPA Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee held hearings for 56 transgender students wishing to participate in high school athletics with 4 being transgender girls

In 2021 the Maine Legislature amended the Maine Human Rights Act to add "gender identity" as a protected status for which educational institutions cannot discriminate with respect to school athletic participation With this amendment the MPA removed the Gender Identity Policy and has since advised schools to follow Chapter 337, Subchapter 5-B of the Maine Human Rights Act in allowing transgender participation high school athletics consistent with their gender identity LD 930 would force schools to violate the Maine Human Rights Act and Title IX by requiring that they discriminate against transgender student athletes based on their gender identity

The MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 930