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May 6, 2025

Testimony
In Support of

LD 233 – An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School

Good Afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Representative Tiffany Strout from Harrington, representing the towns of Milbridge, Harrington, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Centerville, Addison, Jonesport, Beals, Jonesboro, Roque Bluffs, Whitneyville and Machias in beautiful Washington County and I am here today to testify in support of LD 233 – **An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School.**

I am here today to testify in support of LD 233, and the bills that follow related to protecting biological females in sports and private spaces.

Today you will hear many testimonies around the unfairness of biological males competing against biological females in women's competitive sports. There will be athletes here today who have had direct experience with such situations and would be best to allow them to provide that information for your consideration.

Recent events have brought to attention the disadvantage of men competing against females in women's competitive sports for those who make it to the podium. What is often not brought up for discussion are all the mediocre athletes, like me. I am speaking for those of us whose parents never played sports, who couldn't afford to send us to camps, or special training. Any extra time I had my senior year was spent working. All I had was what I physically put into the athletics that I participated in. I was a 3-sports a year athlete for most of my high school years. Volleyball is still my favorite sport, but I am proud to say I placed 3rd in Eastern Maine in the javelin event my senior year. I am certain that if I had had to compete against a biological male I would not have placed. While that was some time ago, the current difference in state records has the top female throwing 150.00 feet and the top male throwing 209.51 feet, a difference of more than 50 feet.

Knowing I was not going to make a living playing sports, I moved on to getting an education and my first career was working at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor Maine. Many know about the

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Jackson Laboratory, but if you have not heard of them, they are a leading genetic research facility known around the world. One of my first jobs was in customer service where I placed orders for research mice. Mice were ordered as male and female and shipped all over the world. When I was there were over **2500** different variations of breeds of mice used for many different types of research but they were always ordered as female and male.

As my career grew, I became a project manager. In this role I would speak with scientists, post docs, lab technicians and veterinarians all over the world. I would listen to their research needs; get them the mice they needed and discuss the services available. The Jackson Laboratory offered to me that I may be of assistance in their research. One department where I spent a few years was Reproductive Sciences. Here I discussed sperm cryopreservation, embryo cryopreservation and ways to make lots of mice for their needed genotype or research projects.

The basis of life comes from reproductive cells also known as germ cells. The germ cells contain one set of 23 chromosomes. A female's eggs are always X and a male's sperm are either X or Y. Gender is determined by which chromosomes are combined during fertilization. If the sperm that fertilizes the egg is an X, then the 23 chromosomes combine with the 23 chromosomes in the egg, the resulting gender is female. If the sperm that fertilizes the egg is Y, the sets of chromosomes combine and the gender result is male.

I have many issues with men competing directly against females in sports designated for women, but my greatest concern is with not allowing the separation of private spaces based on gender.

As a female who is very self-conscious about her body, in high school and now, I am not completely comfortable with changing in a women's locker room. I cannot imagine the stress, embarrassment and anxiety I would have had if I had to change knowing biological males could be walking in at any time.

As a mom, I do not find it acceptable in any way if my son was changing in a male locker room and a female went into change in front of him. This situation could bring about uncomfortable situations, maybe embarrassment and the males to be accused of many things that could result in false accusations and a permanent record for something they didn't do.

What I do find to be acceptable is co-ed sports. If a sport is determined to be co-ed, either due to lack of students to make up a female and male team, or it is decided the sport is better played that way then let the people and kids play. What needs to be upheld is each gender uses the locker room that matches their biological gender.

From high school biology, throughout various positions over my 16-year career at The Jackson Laboratory, and being a mother to a male, I know there are exceptions to everything including genetics and rare diseases. I know there are lots of emotions and believe people should get to be who they want to be as long as they do not harm others. I believe genetics is the makeup of life and how chromosomes combine help to make us who we are. If you are a female you deserve to have your own spaces and sports and if you are a male, you also deserve to have your own spaces and sports.

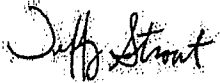
Women have fought for generations for recognition and opportunities to be treated equal in the workplace, to be able to vote, own a credit card and much more. Taking away the opportunity for biological females to compete against biological females for athletics takes away decades of dedication and sacrifice of those women before us.

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I ask this committee to think about all the hard work, training and effort that biological females need to do to compete against those who are biologically made up like them. The genetic makeup is the foundation for life and if this committee does not recognize the differences in gender with one of the bills before you this session, you will be removing many hard fought options for female athletes in this state.

Thank you for your time today and I would be glad to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiffany Strout". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tiffany Strout
State Representative