

Senator Carney, Rep Kuhn, I am Heidi Sampson, Executive Dir. for Maine Education Initiative. I support *LD 868 An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools*

We “avoid any practice or technique which endangers the present or future welfare of a participant.”¹

“Adherence to the Code is expected at all MPA sponsored or sanctioned activities. Reported consistent and/or flagrant violations of the Code may result in punitive action by the MPA.”²

I bring two major concerns to your attention, which you can rectify thereby signaling to the Maine Principals' Association to take proper action.

1. MPA is clearly not enforcing their own Code of Ethics by not addressing serious injuries. High School girls competing in sports are sustaining physical collisions with biological males. They are suffering serious injuries: concussions, head/neck injuries, spinal injuries, broken teeth, etc. These are examples I am personally familiar with.

Why are coaches not reporting concussions, for example? One girl was returned to the soccer field after her head had been slammed by a bigger, stronger biological boy. Nothing was reported and no precautions taken. **Why are these types of injuries not being reported?**

MPA is familiar with the Concussion Management Resource Guide³ They were in front of my committee as we deliberated the great details, last session. These policies require all coaches, athletic trainers, athletic directors and others to follow. **Why are these girls not being protected?**

2. The MPA has create a loop-hole. There is strong indication this is being taken advantage of. Prior to 2024, MPA's policy provided guidelines for female-presenting males to have a hearing. The goal was to present evidence they would have no physical advantage over the girls they would be competing with. Now however, MPA punted the decision making to local districts. The local districts have an affirm gender identity, only policy. Since May 2019 when the Conversion Therapy Ban was signed, all professionals were required to affirm-only a child's gender dysphoria. There is no requirement for proving use of puberty blockers or sex hormones. In that case, boys presenting as girls, can participate in girls' sports without any pharmaceutical intervention. Therefore, in these cases boys will have unthwarted physical domination over girls in sports like soccer, volleyball, basketball, track & field, field hockey, skiing, etc.

Why are all the women who fought so hard to give women equal opportunities – so silent? I personally benefitted from Title IX in the '70's and '80's as a two-sport collegiate athlete and then breaking into a very select field of scientific research.

Sadly now, our girls are being erased. I want to know why? MPA must fix this!

¹<https://rst6-livesite.rschooldtoday.com/sites/mpa.cc/files/files/Handbook%20-%20Constitution%20%26%20Bylaws/handbook2425.pdf> pg 57

²Ibid

³<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/School%20Health%20Services%20-%20Concussion%20Management%20Resource%20Guide%20-%20202.28.25.pdf>