

Bianca Wright, Age 17
Benton, ME

LD: 868 - "An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools."

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honored members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Bianca Wright, I'm 17 years old and I'm from Benton, ME. I am a longtime, multi-sport athlete and athletic coach for soccer.

I am here today in support of LD 868. Biological men and boys should not play in women's sports and there should only be women's teams, men's teams, and consensual co-ed teams.

This past winter I got to play for a women's homeschool basketball team. There was an instance where we were told we would be playing against a co-ed team despite us being an all girls team. It turns out that the so-called "co-ed" team was really a boys team with the exception of 3 girls who sat on the bench for most of the time.

When my girls team played against the "co-ed" team, it wasn't fair for us to play against biological men. My team felt super uncomfortable playing against a boys team with us only being girls. We all knew how the guys played and yet still had to play against them no matter how much we didn't want to.

During the game my teammates suffered from the boys' aggressive play. One of my teammates got shoved to the ground and another got elbowed in the temple causing her to become dizzy and sustain a severe headache. She had to sit out for the rest of the game. My teammates got shouldered, pushed aside and toppled over. The boys team ended up beating our girl team by 60 points. The reason I tell you all this today, is to give you an example of what it would look like if men continue to be allowed to play against women.

I feel that men should not participate in women's sports for many reasons: they are physically built differently, play more aggressively, can run faster, and jump higher. For all the girls who worked hard all year, it's disappointing to lose to a biological man. All the young girls in Maine shouldn't have to prepare to lose because men have taken over girl sports. Girls shouldn't have to feel uncomfortable in their sports or be worried they can get seriously hurt.

I got here at 8 am this morning so I can be one of the first to testify because I am a soccer coach for kids who have practice later today.. I feel it was important for me to testify so I can ensure all 6 of the little girls on my team have a safe future in sports and don't have to give up any of their wins to men.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 868.