

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Cynthia Dill and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. I'm here on behalf of New England Women's Solidarity to support LD 1432.

NEWS is a feminist organization, and we are deeply concerned with the loss of women and girls' rights in the state of Maine. Laws which purported to champion 'inclusivity' by making 'gender identity' a protected characteristic have instead robbed schoolgirls of opportunities and honors in their own sports^{1 2} and forced them to share facilities where they undress with males.³ Raped and battered women have been denied the ability to seek female-only crisis shelters where they can heal from male violence⁴ and incarcerated women have been made to shower with and sleep beside violent male convicts.⁵

Nearly all of these changes to Maine law were made without media coverage or the awareness of the general public. When polled on these issues, voters from both sides of the political spectrum and across all ages overwhelmingly say that they oppose biological males being allowed to compete in female sports and support single-sex spaces for women and girls.^{6 7 8}

We are asking for a return to common sense. There are many circumstances where biological sex matters. Males are significantly stronger and faster than females due to numerous anatomical advantages,⁹ so they shouldn't be competing in female sports. Boys and girls have different bodies, so girls should not be forced to undress beside males in their school locker rooms. 86% of incarcerated women are survivors of sexual violence,¹⁰ and it

¹ Mesa, Jesus. *Transgender Athlete's Win in Maine Sparks Backlash*. Newsweek: February 21, 2025.

² Zaksheske, Dan. *Another Male Wins Girls' Event in Maine as State is Being Sued by Federal Government*. Outkick: May 4, 2025.

³ Thompson, Jackson. *Maine Girl Involved in Trans Athlete Battle Reveals How State's Policies Hurt her Childhood and Sports Career*. New York Post: March 23, 2025.

⁴ A. *Protecting Men at the Women's Shelter*. Feminist Current: September 13, 2020.

⁵ Harrison, Judy. *Transgender Inmate Who Murdered Parents Moved to Maine Women's Prison*. Bangor Daily News: January 10, 2023.

⁶ Francis, Marquise. *Poll: Most Americans Oppose Trans Women Competing in Female Sports, Including 2 of 3 in Gen Z*. NBC News: April 30, 2025.

⁷ Bishop, Bonnie. *Poll: More Mainers Against Transgender Athletes in Women's Sports*. WMTW News: March 27, 2025.

⁸ Ballard, Jamie. *Where Do Americans Stand on Transgender Rights?* YouGov: Sept. 23, 2021.

⁹ Joyner, Michael. *Evidence on Sex Differences in Sport Performance*. Journal of Applied Physiology: Jan 2025.

¹⁰ Vera Institute of Justice. *Overlooked: Women and Jails in an Era of Reform*: 2017.

should not be part of their punishment that they are forced to share cells and showers with male convicts.

When 'gender identity' is included in laws such as the Maine Human Rights Act, biology ceases to be a factor in all of these cases and many more where sex matters. We reject the belief that it is the obligation of women and girls to sacrifice our rights to fairness, dignity and safety in order to accommodate the feelings of another group. We want our own sports and spaces back.

I appreciate the chance to share our point of view with the Committee. New England Women's Solidarity urges you to support LD 1432 and protect the rights of women and girls in Maine by removing 'gender identity' from the Human Rights Act. Thank you.

Cynthia Dill
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
New England Women's Solidarity
May 8, 2025