

LD 1337, "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters" Before the Committee on Judiciary April 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1337, "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters."

I believe this bill is crucial for upholding fairness in women's sports and ensuring the safety and privacy of women in single-sex shelters.

In athletics, biological differences between males and females can create significant disparities in strength, speed, and endurance. Allowing biological males to compete in women's sports undermines the opportunities for female athletes to achieve their full potential and have a fair playing field. LD 1337 seeks to ensure that female athletes can compete fairly against other biological females.

Similarly, women's single-sex shelters are designed to provide a safe and private environment for women, many of whom have experienced trauma. There are only 4 of these shelters in Maine that are specifically for women, or women and their children. Maintaining these spaces for biological females ensures the safety and well-being of the vulnerable individuals who rely on these services.

LD 1337 is a common-sense measure that balances inclusivity with the need to protect fairness in women's sports and the safety of women in single-sex shelters. It is not discriminatory but rather acknowledges biological realities and the specific needs of women.

I urge the committee to support LD 1337 and help ensure a fair and safe environment for the women of Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.