

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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MPA testimony

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jared Bornstein, I am here today representing the Maine Principals' Association ("MPA"), testifying neither for nor against LD's 233, 868, 1134, 1137 and 1432. The theme of these bills is changing or removing the use of gender identity in the Maine Human Rights Act with respect to transgender girls participating in female specific sports in Maine schools and colleges. We are testifying neither for nor against because as the organization charged with organizing and officiating interscholastic sports in Maine, we do not feel it would be appropriate for us to weigh in. It is our policy to simply follow the law, whether from the Legislature, Congress, or the Courts.

However, we understand that these are contentious issues both in the halls of this building as well as in the schools and on the fields of our great state. This policy has strong cultural tides that are no doubt pulling on this committee and this legislative body. However, we are fully confident that whatever decision the Legislature and Governor come to will be the right choice. We stand ready to alter our policy, or let it remain the same based on what you tell us to do. With or without changes, we are committed to inclusivity for all students and will continue to strive to make our sporting events a welcoming, fair, and exciting experience for all involved.

MPA has discussed potential changes to the law among our leadership, as a result we have a request of the committee. It seems like there are three options for you all, remain the same, find a compromise where there is a decision on a case-by-case basis, or prevent transgender girls from competing in girls' sports. While we remain truly neutral on these options and will faithfully execute whatever law you pass or don't pass; we request that the law be fully one or the other, avoiding the middle ground. We ask that the legislature embrace its responsibility, rather than place the burden on MPA, who is an organizing body not a social, cultural or political deliberating body.

We are here to be a resource to you all during your deliberations. You should have already received materials from the MPA that the Chairs requested, including our policies. We will prepare any additional materials or documents that the committee may desire for consideration during the work session on these bills. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and candor.