

Stacey K. Guerin
Senator, District 4



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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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.

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

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

April 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and member of the joint standing committee on Judiciary: My name is Stacey Guerin and I represent Senate District 4. I am before you today to express my strong support for LD 868, "An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools."

This bill addresses critical aspects of ensuring both equity and safety within our educational institutions. Specifically, it aims to clarify policies regarding athletics, restrooms, changing rooms, and housing.

Regarding athletics, the inclusion of biological males in female sports raises concerns about fairness. Studies have consistently shown significant physiological differences between biological males and females, particularly after puberty. For example, a 2017 review in the British Journal of Sports Medicine analyzing multiple studies found that, on average, biological males possess a 10-12% advantage in running speed, 30% greater grip strength, and 40% greater jumping ability compared to biological females. Allowing biological males to compete in female sports can displace female athletes, diminish their opportunities for scholarships and recognition, and undermine the integrity of fair competition.

In the context of restrooms, changing rooms, and housing, the privacy and safety of all students must be paramount. While ensuring inclusivity for transgender students is important, it must be balanced with the privacy and safety expectations of all individuals. Creating clear guidelines can help prevent discomfort and potential safety concerns.

LD 868 seeks to establish a framework that respects the dignity and safety of all students while addressing the unique considerations within these specific environments. It is about finding a balanced approach that promotes both equity and safety.

I urge the committee to carefully consider the importance of this legislation in creating a safe and equitable learning environment for all students in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.