

Katherine Collins, Winterport

Girls should feel safe at school and their privacy should be respected. This statement is common sense and was not controversial until about 4 years ago. Maine has since allowed boys in girl's sports, men in women's restrooms and locker rooms with terrible consequences. We have instance after instance of harassment, voyeurism, violence, and boys stealing girl's medals, records, and accomplishments.

A year ago legislation was introduced to keep men out of women's sports and private spaces. Hundreds of Maine residents, including me, pleaded for safety and fairness for our girls. Title IX was enacted into law in 1972 and prohibits sex-based discrimination in education programs or activities receiving federal funding. It ensures equal opportunities for all students and employees, covering sexual harassment, sexual violence, unequal athletic opportunities, and pregnancy discrimination. Interpretation of current Maine law obviously violates Title IX.

You had the opportunity to fix this problem, but simply refused to act. Since then I personally have heard of several incidents that would have been averted if you had voted to keep men out of women's spaces. From MDI where a biological male who has identified as female struck a classmate in the head

with a steel water jug, growling as he pinned her down on the sidewalk, and gnawed on her eye before grabbing her by the hair and smashing her head into the concrete, to Hampden Academy where a boy masturbates in the girl's bathroom regularly, to the pool in Hampden where a fully grown man has walked directly into the women's locker room. A female inmate in the Maine State Prison has written about facing assault, intimidation, and sexual harassment at the hands of a 250 pound male murderer who is pretending to be female. There are likely dozens of other similar incidents that have taken place across the state over the past year.

A group of concerned parents followed the Maine constitution and gathered tens of thousands of signatures to put the question on the 2026 ballot in November. Called "An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex". The Secretary of State has transformed this simple language into a convoluted question that is designed to confuse voters. The question should simply read "Should school sports teams and sex-separated facilities be designated by biological sex?"

Anything else is designed to be misleading.