

Good morning,

Dear Senator Carney, Representative

Kuhn, and other esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is delaney larkin,

I am from Orono , Maine, and I am here to support LD 2239

"An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex".

As a young woman and athlete, this issue is deeply personal to me. Growing up, I played lacrosse with the boys in my neighborhood before eventually transitioning into women's lacrosse. Because of that experience, I witnessed firsthand how physical differences between boys and girls become undeniable as we grow differences in speed, strength, and athletic ability that can completely change competition.

That is why women's sports were created.

Not to exclude anyone.

Not to divide people.

But to ensure fairness.

To create opportunity.

To give girls the chance to compete, succeed, and be recognized on a level playing field.

The women before us fought tirelessly for those opportunities. They fought for Title IX. They fought so young girls could earn scholarships, break records, and dream bigger than ever before. They fought so women would no longer be pushed to the sidelines.

And now, my generation is being asked to quietly watch those protections disappear.

LD 2239 is about preserving what generations of women fought to build. It is about acknowledging biological reality while protecting fairness, safety, and dignity in women's athletics and private spaces. It is about making sure girls never have to wonder if their opportunities will be taken away because adults were too afraid to stand up for what is right.

We cannot claim to support women while allowing the very spaces designed to protect women to be erased. We cannot call it equality when young women are expected to sacrifice fairness in silence.

This bill is not about hate. It is not about politics. It is about courage. It is about standing up for every little girl who dreams of stepping onto a field one day and knowing that if she works hard enough, she has a fair chance to succeed.

I urge you to support LD 2239 and protect the future of women's sports and women's spaces in Maine.

Thank you.