



Matthew A. Harrington
Senator, District 33

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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**LD 2239, “An Act to Designate School Sports
Participation and Facilities by Sex”**

**Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
April 14, 2026**

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

I am Senator Matt Harrington; and I represent District 33, which includes the municipalities of Alfred, Lebanon, Sanford and Waterboro. I would like to offer testimony in favor of LD 2239, “An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex.”

This bill is about fairness and safety, requiring public schools and entities that govern interscholastic or competitive sports by public schools to designate athletic teams as for males, for females or coeducational. Athletic teams designated for females must be restricted to students whose sex is female and athletic teams designated for males must be restricted to students whose sex is male. The legislation also requires public schools to maintain separate restrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms or other private spaces for each sex. Like with competitive sports, these spaces were created intentionally with the goal of protecting females.

In allowing biological males to participate in female athletics, we are ignoring the fundamental principles of competitiveness and equality in our sports that Title IX helped preserve. If we continue down this path, we will erase the gains highlighted by the increase in female sports participation.

Furthermore, this bill does not exclude anyone in participating in competitive sports. In fact, it provides a more equal footing for all. All student-athletes are welcome.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this very important legislation.