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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd 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 Scott Cyrway: and I represent Senate District 16, portions of Kennebec and Somerset Counties. I would like to offer testimony in favor of LD 2239, “*An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex.*”

Despite the proposed referendum wording from the Secretary of State, the legislation before you today should not be controversial. This measure would require 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. Additionally, the legislation would require public schools to maintain separate restrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms or other private spaces for each sex – all for the protection of females. This measure does not discriminate. Rather, it allows for more equal participation with same-sex teams. All student-athletes should be able to participate and compete with their peers.

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

In addressing another aspect of the legislation, the enforcement mechanism is not just to “allow students to sue the schools.” The bill does allow for a civil action if a student’s sex-based rights are violated. Without an enforcement mechanism, young women and girls in our state will continue to lose opportunities and face the circumstance of sharing their most private spaces with biological males.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this very important legislation.