

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 2

Senator Harold 'Trey' Stewart, III
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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 Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

I am Trey Stewart: and I represent Senate District 2, which includes several communities in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties. I would like to offer my support for LD 2239, "*An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex.*"

LD 2239 requires 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 requires public schools to maintain separate restrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms or other private spaces for each sex.

As you may hear in others' testimony, the passage of the federal Title IX legislation in 1972 drastically increased the rate of female participation in sports. If we continue to allow biological males to participate in female athletics, we are ignoring the fundamental principles of competitiveness and fairness – and safety – in sports that Title IX helped enshrine. I cannot understand why we would want to erase the gains highlighted by the increase in female sports participation.

I must add to this testimony that I am 100% in support of transgender students participating in sports and other extracurricular activities. If they do not want to play on a team with others of the same biological sex, this legislation addresses that concern by allowing for co-ed sports and participation on teams that recognize their biological sex.

We must protect female students. Their emotional and physical safety should be paramount for all of us.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this very important measure.