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Testimony on LD 2239
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Hello, I'm Leyland Streiff.

I am the Principal Officer of the Protect Girls' Sports in Maine Ballot Committee, and leader of the Maine Girl Dads - a coalition of fathers from across the political spectrum fighting to protect our daughters' rights.

I want to thank this Committee for taking the time to hear from the public on LD 2239.

Today is historic. Today isn't about what so many call a culture war.

Today is about restoring and protecting the sex-based civil rights of all Maine's children and ultimately ending the regressive, sexist, discrimination that is taking place today in our schools.

Our bill, wonderfully titled by the Secretary of State herself as, "An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex", does exactly that.

First, our bill ensures that all competitive sports are designated by sex: male, female, and co-ed.

Second, our bill ensures that all private spaces (bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers) are designated by Sex.

And lastly, so there is no confusion, our bill importantly defines "Sex" as one's "...biological status as male or female as recorded at birth..."

This definition of Sex is aligned to every major medical organization, including the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

The crux of our cause is this: Sex and Gender are not the same thing – definitionally, scientifically, and legally.

Sex is real. Sex matters. And Sex is a protected class by both Federal law and State law.

Even the Secretary herself noted that our bill is in unison with the Maine Human Rights Act, writing in our petition's summary, "...the Maine Human Rights Act may not be construed to conflict with the provisions of the initiated bill." We agree.

If a female wants a female only space or sports opportunity, she is owed that by law. Period. Same with males. Anything else is discriminatory, illegal, and regressive.

Inclusivity does not – and cannot - require discrimination solely on the basis of one's sex.

Yet shockingly, this denial of sex-based civil rights happens every day in Maine's schools, as males compete in female sports, and many, many more use female bathrooms and locker rooms.

Our bill solves this issue and restores the sex-based rights of all children in Maine.

Our bill is inclusive, fair, and safe.
Everybody plays; nobody is banned.

Sports and private spaces are simply designated by the innate, immutable trait (and protected class) that every human shares – our Sex.

This is not a new concept nor a new right. This is a reclamation of the sex-based civil rights of our state's most vulnerable population - our children. Rights that have existed for over 50 years.

Today should be no different.

Committee, you have an opportunity to enact this bill today.

I urge you to be heroes.
To stand up for truth.
To be brave.
To lead.

To do what we parents are called to do every day: show our kids that we're willing to do the right thing, especially when it's hard, because our example will shape them and shape their world.

The 8,000 Maine Girl Dads are in your corner. The 82,000 signers of our petition are in your corner. And polls show, almost 70% of Maine is in your corner too. Stand with us, and we stand with you.

Thank you and God bless.