

LD 2239 testimony

Ava Lewis

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Good morning, members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Ava Lewis, and I am a junior in High School. First, I'd like to start by saying that I am grateful for this opportunity to speak in front of you all and express something that I feel passionate about.

I believe that males should not be allowed to perform in female sports nor be allowed in female-designated areas.

As an athlete myself, I have seen firsthand what it looks like to lose to a male in my sport. This past fall, my soccer team lost to two teams that had a male on their team. My team wasn't the best, but all goals scored by those teams were by males. It was very clear that the boys were outrunning my teammates and me. Also, the physicality of the boys was obviously different. You could tell the difference between a girl shoving you hard and a boy. There is no debate that males tend to be naturally stronger than females; that's just how the bodies were made. Now, with that being said, put that into sports. It is just not fair.

My sophomore year (last year) was the first time I saw a male in a bathroom. I was on my grade retreat at a rock climbing gym when I went into the bathroom to wash my hands. In there, I saw an older man in nothing but his underwear. Now, the bathroom was labeled "gender-neutral," but as a 15-year-old girl, how do you think my reaction would be? Being me, I screamed and ran out. But that's not the point; the point is that I should never have had to go through that experience. And I know I'm not the only one, girls and women should never have to see someone of the opposite gender in their bathroom. That even goes for saying females aren't allowed in male bathrooms.

With all that being said, thank you for your time, and I hope you all really think about what these girls here are saying today, think about what is morally right, and support LD 2239.

Thank you.