

Hannah Legere
Winterport, ME

Good morning, members of the Judiciary committee and all who took the time to be present at this hearing. My name is Hannah Legere, and I am from Winterport, thank you for having me today. I would like to open my testimony with a visual exercise. I want all of you present to think back to your high school and consider the athletic merits your school held. I'm sure we can all think of banners in the gym or a glittering trophy case proudly displayed at the front of the school. We put these tangible records of achievement on display because they display hardwork, dedication, and excellence in a specific sport. We take pride in displaying the long days and late nights of discipline that is put into earning an award.

When I was in sixth grade, it was that same sense of pride that pushed me to train harder and longer than everyone else on my team because I was determined to be the fastest runner on my cross country team. My efforts put me as the top finisher from my school for all but one of our meets that season. However, during practice, I learned at age eleven that even when the boys cross country team members trained less than me I wasn't able to beat most of their times. However, I knew I didn't have to worry because everyone knew boys were stronger than girls and I wouldn't have to compete against them.

As I watch girls in middle and high school today, their pride in their accomplishments and athletic abilities has not changed, but what has changed is their ability to achieve those goals. What was once hard work and dedication for young women in sports is quickly turning to impossible standards due to the presence of biological male athletes. While these individuals may choose to identify as whatever they please, we cannot change the physiological advantage that they hold over biological women and girls. Their presence in women's sports is a threat to the safety and accomplishment of girls who are working hard to earn their merits, but falling short because they can't measure up to the physical standards of men.

I am standing before you today to come to the defense of the biological women who are working hard in their athletics, but not able to compete with the men who are allowed to compete with them. In the name of equality, these girls are being told they must compete with someone who is biologically stronger and faster and then giving up their achievements when they lose. Is this really what we would define as true equality?

I am in support of LD 2239 because it is the only true statement of equality for women's sports. Telling biological men that they have to play with other biological men instead of women is not disrespect - it's protection for every girl who steps out on the athletic field. These girls should be able to participate in the sports they love without the fear of injury or failure because the scale is so heavily tilted out of their favor by transgender athletes. I urge you to pass LD 2239 to support and protect girls in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.