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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 Jim Libby: and I represent Senate District 22, which includes municipalities in Cumberland, Oxford and York Counties. I would like to provide testimony in support of LD 2239, “*An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex.*”

The legislation in front of 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. This is all to ensure the protection of female athletes.

The existence of sex-segregated sports is to ensure that female athletes are given an adequate opportunity. In fact, the passage of the federal Title IX legislation in 1972 drastically increased the rate of female participation in sports. Data from 2010-11 highlights that 41 percent of high school athletes in the United States were female as compared to only seven percent before Title IX's passage.

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.

We must work to create a safe opportunity for ALL student athletes – including transgender student athletes. This legislation addresses that concern by allowing for co-ed sports and participation on teams that recognize the biological reality of sex.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this very important legislation.