

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee:

My name is Cynthia Dill and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. My testimony in favor of LD 2239 is on behalf of New England Women's Solidarity, of which I am a member. NEWS is a feminist organization and we support single-sex sports and spaces in Maine schools to protect girls' rights.

Schoolgirls in Maine are being made to feel violated by biological males in their bathrooms and locker rooms. In February of 2024, approximately twenty girls staged a walkout from Ellsworth High School in response to a transgender-identifying male student using the girls' bathroom. Girls complained that the trans student filmed them with a phone camera through cracks in the toilet stalls while masturbating. The girls stood outside the school holding signs that read "Protect our Bodies" and "I should not be afraid to use the bathroom".<sup>1</sup>

In March 2025, Presque Isle student Cassidy Carlisle told the New York Post how she and other girls were forced to undress alongside a male student who identified as a girl in their seventh grade locker room, although they did not want to do so.<sup>2</sup>

What are we teaching Maine's young girls when we tell them that their own feelings of body privacy and vulnerability don't matter if a male wants to be in the room where they're undressed or showering? It defies common sense to ignore the reality that biological sex matters in locker rooms and showers.

Another area where biological sex matters is in athletic competition. Even in primary school, boys are stronger and faster than girls<sup>3</sup> due to anatomical advantages that become significantly more pronounced with the surge of testosterone that puberty brings, such as larger hearts and lungs, more fast-twitch muscle fibers, narrower pelvises that put less resistance on their lower bodies, and more.<sup>4</sup> These are biological facts that not very long ago, everyone acknowledged without controversy.

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<sup>1</sup> Robinson, Steve. Trans Student Had History of Sexual Harassment Prior to Assault, Biting Attack That Left Maine Girl Concussed, Vision Impaired. Maine Wire: October 9, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Thompson, Jackson. Maine Girl Involved in Trans Athlete Battle Reveals How State's Policies Hurt her Childhood and Sports Career. New York Post: March 23, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Brown, Gregory. Sex-based differences in track running distances of 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1500m in the 8 and under and 9–10-year-old age groups. European Journal of Sport Science: February 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Joyner, Michael. Evidence on Sex Differences in Sport Performance. Journal of Applied Physiology: January 2025.

Numerous studies have proven that even after years on cross-sex hormones, male speed and strength advantages cannot be reversed.<sup>5 6</sup>

We want all students to be able to participate in athletics, but sports are played with bodies, not identities. Why not encourage boys' teams to be more welcoming to gender-nonconforming males? Maine is doing a great disservice to our girls by telling them that they must sacrifice their fair chances at honors and opportunities to benefit another group.

Critics have said that we shouldn't be concerned about this issue because there are as yet only a few transgender athletes in Maine competing and winning in girls' sports,<sup>7</sup> but even one girl being cheated out of honors she has worked for and earned is too many. Sports are important to girls, too.

A 2025 poll showed that most Mainers on both sides of the political aisle oppose biological males being allowed to compete in female sports.<sup>8</sup> Maine voters want girls to have their own sports back, and we agree.

Please bring common sense back to Maine schools. New England Women's Solidarity urges you to vote in favor of LD 2239. Thank you.

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<sup>5</sup> Hilton, E. and Tommy Lundberg. Transgender Women in the Female Category of Sport: Perspectives on Testosterone Suppression and Performance Advantage. Sports Medicine 51: February 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Heather, Alison K. Transwoman Elite Athletes: Their Extra Percentage Relative to Female Physiology. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 19: July 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Zaksheske, Dan. Another Male Wins Girls' Event in Maine as State is Being Sued by Federal Government. Outkick: May 4, 2025.

<sup>8</sup> Bishop, Bonnie. Poll: More Mainers Against Transgender Athletes in Women's Sports. WMTW News, March 27, 2025.