

LD 2239 - "An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex"

Madam Chair & Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support LD 2239, which seeks to designate spaces for women and girls in facilities and athletics based on their biological sex.

My first hand experience is coming from the view of a parent that has observed many local, regional, and national volleyball competitions over many years. I have seen first hand that boys have a physical advantage over girls, specifically (but not limited to) their strength, power, and speed. This is an observable fact. At the Nike Boston Volleyball festival, I saw many high school boys competing in matches and due to their strength and power, the force behind spiking the ball is significantly different than what girls can physically demonstrate.

By putting biological boys on girls teams or having them compete against girls not only creates an uneven playing field but also can bring about legitimate concerns about the safety of the female athletes playing against these biological males. The sheer difference in physical power can lead to undue harm for girls on the opposite side of the net. Unfortunately, this actually played out with a former volleyball player, Payton McNabb from North Carolina, who was hit by a volleyball from a transgender student that left her with a concussion and a neck injury along with other long-term injuries.

To ensure that girls in Maine have a space to compete safely and fairly, we must maintain athletic designations based on biological sex. I urge this committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2239.

Kelly Parker
Oakland, Maine