

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1337

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Faye Anderson
RSU 22

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT REGARDING
FEMALE ATHLETES AND SAFETY IN WOMEN'S SINGLE-SEX SHELTERS**

May 8, 2025

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Joseph Long
MSAD 35/RSU 35

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Steven Bailey, the Executive Director of the Maine School Boards Association, testifying on behalf of the MSBA legislative committee in opposition to L.D. 1337.

VICE PRESIDENT

Roy Gott
RSU 24

Consistent with testimony on other proposed bills that seek to discriminate on the basis of gender identity, the legislative committee of the Maine School Boards Association expresses their opposition to L.D. 1337.

**IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT**

Jane Osborne
Deer Isle-Stonington CSD

To reiterate the history of this protected right, it was in 2019 that the Maine Legislature passed Public Law 2019, c. 464, which amended the MHRA to define "gender identity" as a distinct protected characteristic. The new definition clarified that "gender identity means the gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, regardless of the individual's assigned sex at birth."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steven W. Bailey

This change ensured that gender identity was explicitly recognized and protected under the MHRA, separate from sexual orientation.

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**MAINE COUNCIL OF
SCHOOL BOARD
ATTORNEYS**

Isabel Ekman, Esq., Chair

Then, in 2021, the Maine Legislature passed L.D. 1688, which further reinforced the state's commitment to safeguarding individuals from discrimination based on gender identity across various domains, including employment, housing, education, and public accommodations.

This bill would serve to create an exception which again, as in the other related proposed bills, is incongruous with current statutes. MSBA is firm on supporting all students and their participation in extracurricular activities based on their gender identity. No exceptions should be carved out. MSBA urges the Judiciary Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on L.D. 1337.