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LD 233

I am writing to state my opposition to LD233. As a nurse and college professor, I have studied child physical and emotional development. I first heard a concern about a trans woman in sports when that woman won a sports event. The issue seemed to be concern that she had an unfair advantage over the other children. There are characteristics in any person that may give them an advantage or disadvantage over another in a particular sports event. Parents should be focused on helping children to learn sportsmanship and teamwork, and to accept defeat, not to exclude others. A trans woman is a woman. She should be allowed to play with other women. There are women playing on men's football and soccer teams. Studies have shown that children playing on co-ed or mixed-sex sports, develop a greater sense of teamwork and understanding of the opposite sex. Children who get to work and play with others who are different in some way, develop a greater sense of acceptance and empathy. Bullying and harassment are much greater threats to our youths, than having a teammate who is trans. The reports I have read state there are only three trans athletes currently playing on Maine's sports teams. Why has this become such an inflated issue? Sexual abuse and harassment by coaches seems to be a more ominous threat to the young women in Maine. I have a granddaughter approaching middle school, who is very dear to me. I have no concern about her playing on a sports team with a trans athlete.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I urge you to vote "ought not to pass."