

Tim Collins
Lyman
LD 868

Over the past few weeks, a group of us have been contacting women's shelters, gyms, and other female-only spaces to investigate their policies on admitting biological males. In recorded calls, staff consistently confirmed that state laws and policies require them to allow biological males into these spaces based solely on self-identified gender.

For instance, at Florence Women's Shelter in Portland, Maine, staff stated that individuals need only declare they are female to gain access—no requirement to present as female. A biological male wearing casual attire, such as a t-shirt and jeans, would be admitted. They further noted that criminal history, including convictions for rape, does not bar access. The shelter's open-style sleeping quarters, where some women may be in undergarments, raise additional concerns about privacy and safety.

We also contacted over 20 gyms, all of which confirmed that Maine state law compels them to allow individuals to use any shower or changing area based on self-identified gender, no questions asked. Many of these facilities permit minors, and staff acknowledged scenarios where biological males could change in the presence of minor females, or vice versa, with no restrictions on nudity.

These findings are easily verifiable. A five-minute call to any of these organizations will confirm that their policies align with Maine state law and the Maine Human Rights Act. This extends beyond transgender issues. For example, individuals identifying as "non-binary" can freely access either male or female spaces by simply stating their identity.

These policies stem from what some describe as critical gender ideology, which seeks to blur or erase gender distinctions, fostering confusion and promoting a collectivist "they/them" non-binary framework. This raises significant concerns about privacy, safety, and the integrity of female-only spaces.

The revised Maine Human Rights Act, amended under Democratic leadership, has led to widespread issues across various sectors in the state. Policies allowing male students to use facilities and participate in sports aligned with their gender identity, rather than biological sex, have created significant challenges in schools and other settings, raising concerns about fairness, privacy, and safety.