

The Join Standing Judiciary Committee
Testimony of Catey Draper, Cape Elizabeth, ME

Against LD 233

LD 233: An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School

May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Join Standing Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Catey Draper, and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth, ME. I am testifying in opposition to LD 233.

The act to prohibit biological males from participating in school athletic programs and activities designed for females at schools with state funding will hurt my school-aged friends and neighbors. Children should not be stopped from participating in any activity at school in which they are interested. The school environment should be one where every student receives an education in and outside of the classroom.

This gender-based ban would target all girls, making them vulnerable to physical scrutiny and harassment, exacerbating the vulnerable experience of identifying as female. Any attempt to enforce this ban violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls.

The issues of sports participation are already being handled appropriately by the correct organizations and governing associations to ensure fairness. Changes to Maine law are unnecessary and help no one, regardless of gender.

Respectfully,

Catey Draper
Cape Elizabeth, ME