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## Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in opposition to 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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Rep. Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven. As a legislator, I hear from constituents across Maine who identify as transgender or non-binary and are simply asking to live with dignity, safety, and acceptance.

I oppose LD 233 because it targets a specific group of students for exclusion. Transgender youth already face higher rates of bullying and isolation, and legislation like this makes their lives harder—not safer or fairer. School athletics should be about inclusion, teamwork, and growth—not about gatekeeping and exclusion.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote Ought Not to Pass.

Thank you, Rep. Holly Eaton House District 15