

Heather Ellsworth
Warren
LD 233

I am against LD 233. The micro-focus on transgender kids in school sports leaves me incredulous. Besides the fact that there are very few transgender children in Maine who are participating in sports, this issue being of such great concern at a time when many kids don't have enough to eat, schools are understaffed, and online bullying is rampant, boggles my mind. I believe in fairness in all things, including sports, and the reality is that there is generally *no agreement* about whether or not transgender girls have any advantage over biological girls. People are jumping to conclusions about this. Furthermore, to link this issue to state funding as a whole seems insane. State funding for schools is used for many many aspects of the educational system, and to link it to one small part seems very misguided. Before Trump started focusing on (scapegoating, as a diversionary tactic) transgender kids, Maine Republicans were not focused on it. Trump is successfully turning the attention of these bill sponsors away from the real issues, including human rights, job security, safety, and bodily autonomy. Transgender kids have a hard enough time. Let's not make it harder by banning them from all sports.