

Margaret Estabrook
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LD 868

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee:
My name is Margaret Estabrook, and I am here to testify in support of LD 868.

Since the enactment of Title IX, female athletes have benefited from protections against sex-based discrimination in school and on the playing field. As a result, female students have been able to leverage their hard work and dedication to reach podium finishes, improve upon past performances, receive well-deserved recognition and educational opportunities. Unfortunately, this is not the case for Maine female athletes today.

Maine's allowance of biological boys in girls' sports and spaces not only violates Title IX protections, it diminishes the very spirit of the law; dismantling the fair and equal playing field that was established over fifty years ago.

A recent study of male participation by the Women's Sports Policy Institute revealed that since 2024, boys have taken over "4,00 victories, finished in the top three at least 7,000 times and have won over 209 state and 363 national championships" from girls. They have also reported that boys have "set and reset at least 436 girls records, including 70 school records, 13 state records and 118 national records."

While the totality of these performances may seem irrelevant to our state, recent events in Maine reveal that this is, in fact, happening in "our backyard". The cascading effect of one male victory is undeniable, not only does it displace every female competitor, but it also erodes their Title IX protections.

LD868's clear language regarding sex, protected spaces, eligibility, teams and the inclusion of legal remedy, effectively protects the Title IX rights of girls.

Additionally, LD868 will restore integrity in results, as it aligns with the NCAA's policy of prohibiting boys competing in girls' sports.

Turge you to pass LD868 to restore fairness and opportunity in Maine interscholastic sports and to honor the efforts of Maine female athletes.