

May 8, 2025

I want to speak today as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Specifically I'd like to give some details about one of many patients that I have seen, who were born either intersex or had chromosomes other than the XX or XY that we all learned about in high school biology.

The patient I will describe today for the committee, was born with a penis, empty scrotal sac, ovaries and a uterus. She was originally thought to be male because of her external genitalia. Her birth certificate stated that she was male. After a more careful examination, a vaginal opening was noted above the scrotum. Additional testing revealed her internal organs to be female as noted above.

This is just one example of a person being born intersex. Surgery was performed to make the external organs match the gender of the internal organs. This child required supplemental estrogen to successfully complete puberty and be able to have children of her own. The majority of people who are intersex or have chromosomal variants like XXY for example do not know about this until they cannot conceive or until they go through puberty.

Most lay people are not aware of these individuals in our communities. As a medical professional, I am here to speak on their behalf. These variations in human biology are as common as having red hair.

If the legislators are interested in protecting young women, they should focus their attention on the 19,000 cases of sexual assault in Maine each year instead of the few trans athletes who participate in sports.

I am happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.

Sue Ferra, MSN, FNP-C
St. George, ME 04860