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LD 233

This bill is not about protecting fairness in athletics—it is about legislating exclusion and discrimination under the guise of equity. LD 233 targets transgender girls, a small and already marginalized group, and singles them out for public rejection from school sports—an essential part of development, community, and belonging for many students.

Let me be clear: Transgender girls are girls. Our public schools are charged not only with educating, but also with affirming the dignity and humanity of all students. Title IX and professional organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Education Association all recognize that inclusive policies in sports help protect students' mental health, academic success, and social well-being.

This bill, on the other hand, promotes stigma, exclusion, and harm. It sends a message to transgender youth in Maine that they do not belong—not on the field, not in the gym, and not in our communities. At a time when trans youth already face elevated rates of bullying, depression, and suicide, we should be doing everything in our power to protect and uplift them—not using state law to isolate them further.

Moreover, the logistics of this bill are deeply problematic. Policing the bodies of students, requiring invasive inquiries or medical documentation, and attempting to enforce rigid gender norms in school sports opens the door to serious privacy violations, legal challenges, and dangerous precedents. Girls who don't conform to gender stereotypes—regardless of whether they are trans—could also be unfairly targeted.

Maine should be a place where all students have an equal opportunity to participate in sports, grow their confidence, and learn the values of teamwork, perseverance, and mutual respect.

I urge this committee to reject LD 233 and instead support policies that promote inclusion, compassion, and equality for all students in our schools.

Thank you for your time and attention.