

Penny Harmon
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I am writing regarding 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, which ought to pass.

The State of Maine has let down our young girls and women in the state by allowing young men and boys to compete in girl's and women's sports. The state has also humiliated these young girls and women by allowing young boys and men to be in spaces that should have privacy – bathrooms and locker rooms.

I must ask you if common sense is a thing of the past or is it going to come back by allowing this important bill to pass? Imagine what our ancestors would say about young girls having to get undressed in front of boys! Imagine what goes through a young girl's mind when she is standing in a locker room half-dressed and suddenly notices a young boy getting undressed just a few feet away!

I am a grandmother to six young girls, ages 10 through 15. Every single one of my granddaughter's participates in sports. Some are the sports they do are soccer, basketball, track, field hockey, lacrosse, tennis, and softball. Each one of my granddaughters gives 100% effort in the sport they play. How fair is it that each one of them, after putting in 100% effort could easily lose their place to a biological boy? My oldest granddaughter did track last year. She could have easily been knocked out of placing in the top five had a biological boy been competing against her. She worked hard and deserved her spot. To think that could have been taken away, and has been taken away from other girls, saddens me.

You have a choice today to protect our girls and young women in sports or to allow their rights to be trampled on. Which is it going to be? Do you want to be the person who tells these girls and women that no one cared enough to protect them? Do you want to be the one to shove them aside?

I am imploring you to do the right thing by our girl and women athletes of Maine. It is a biological fact that boys and men are stronger than girls and women. Do what is best for our young girls and women as they are the future. Without them, there is no future at all!