

Adrienne Horne
Appleton
LD 233

Testimony in opposition to

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

LD 868: An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools

LD 1134: An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities

LD 1432: An Act to Remove Consideration of Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act

LD 1337: An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters

To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Adrienne Horne

May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Adrienne Horne, I'm a resident of Appleton, and I am providing testimony in opposition to the bills before the committee today including LD 233, LD 868, LD 1134, LD 1432, and LD 1337. These bills have the potential to decrease participation in sports and extracurricular activities, which would not only hurt individual children, but the overall school climates as well.

I've played sports for most of my life. I played sports in middle school, high school, and college - both before and after Gender Identity was added to the Maine Human Rights Act. I remember when I started playing basketball in third grade, I was so excited to be a part of a team and practice forming relationships built on trust and dedication to a common goal. I loved getting to be a part of a team. I loved it so much that I joined all the sports I had time for - as soon as I was old enough, I played soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter, and softball in the spring. When I got to high school, I swapped out softball for lacrosse, and when I made it to college I played lacrosse all year long. My appreciation for team sports and what it did for me and everyone else on the team - and everyone else at the school - has stayed the same. Playing on team sports made me a better classmate, a better worker, a better community member, and a better person. If we want children and their communities to thrive, we should be decreasing barriers to joining sports and extra-curricular activities, not increasing them.

In my entire 14 years playing school sports, never have I ever had an issue with transgender girls participating in sports with me. In fact, I played on a co-ed soccer team in middle school and a co-ed lacrosse team for one year in college that included people of all genders. There are no issues being addressed by these bills. The biggest issues I experienced when playing sports myself was lack of funding for coaches, uniforms, and equipment. These bills do not address disparities in funding for girls sports or increase access to equipment that would allow more girls to play sports. These bills only serve to increase the scrutiny and discrimination girls in sports will face. My body was already policed enough as a girl at school. I experienced administrators telling me I would be suspended and sent home for wearing bright make-up or clothing that showed my legs or my shoulders. I was made to be hyper aware of what my body looked like and how it was being perceived. Sports was one area at school where I felt like I could use my body without being scrutinized for what

it looked like, and attention focused on what it could do. Schools would benefit from policies that do not increase policing of girls bodies, and instead support all girls in participating in activities that make them feel powerful and connected.

These laws are unnecessary and help no one while harming many in the process.

These restrictions won't make make schools in Maine safe or fair for anyone.

Removing gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act does not make anyone in the state safer. Exempting organizations from anti-discrimination requirements does not make anyone safer. As someone who has experienced policing of my body at school, and experienced the freedom of school sports, I know how important it is for us to protect the right of all girls to participate in school sports. Playing sports has had a life-long impact on who I am as a person and how I show up at work and in my community, and I want every young girl to have the opportunity to experience those positive impacts too.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Horne