

Kalisto Nanen
Cyr Plantation
LD 233

LD 233 : Act Prohibiting Biological Males from Participating in Females Sports Programs

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Kalisto Zenda Nanen, I'm a resident of Cyr Plantation, Maine, and I am here on my experience as a trans Mainer. I am here today in opposition to the bills before the committee today, including the proposal restricting transgender girls from participating in school athletics.

As a parent of a three-year-old raised in a gender-expansive home, I am deeply troubled by the discriminatory nature of this bill. While I was never heavily involved in athletics myself, I recognize the vital role that sports play in childhood development—fostering teamwork, confidence, and inclusion. This bill does not protect fairness; it sanctions exclusion. It is an unjust attempt to target a small and already marginalized population.

The reality is that transgender athletes are not dominating sports in Maine. There are currently fewer than five transgender girls participating in school athletics across the state, yet policies like this attempt to solve a “problem” that does not exist. Scientific research has shown that transgender athletes have no inherent athletic advantage over their cisgender peers in youth sports—especially at the school level, where factors like individual skill, access to training, and encouragement play a far greater role. Living in a rural community, I know how rare and valuable opportunities for young people to connect and participate in structured activities can be. For transgender youth, the chance to be part of a team is not just about competition; it is about community, belonging, and well-being. This bill would take that away, reinforcing harmful stereotypes and encouraging isolation rather than inclusion.

Maine has always been a place that values fairness and equal opportunity. This bill does not align with those values—it seeks to create a solution for a nonexistent issue while causing real harm to transgender youth who simply wish to play sports like any other child.

I urge you to oppose this bill and stand for inclusion, fairness, and the rights of all Maine students. Thank you.