

David Sievers  
Portland  
LD 233

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

Thank you for the chance to share my views with the Committee.

My name is David Sievers. I'm a resident of Portland. I am writing in strong opposition to the bills before the committee today.

As an athlete, I have a sincere appreciation for the benefits of physical activity, dedicated training, and team membership that are made possible through youth sports. I also use some of the very same public facilities as youth athletes: I swim at Reiche Community Pool, which is sited at Reiche Elementary and is one of the facilities used in recent years by Portland's Class A State Champion swim team; I have run countless laps around the track at Fitzpatrick Stadium, which is sited adjacent to King Middle School, often while one of the many school teams that use the same area are practicing on the field. So issues concerning the use and exclusion from these facilities and the activities I love feel very relevant to my own daily life and interests.

I am concerned by the thought of putting up barriers to participation in youth sports presented by this legislation. We should want more young people to enjoy sports. But legislation that subjects young people to unnecessary and invasive scrutiny is a barrier to participation. A ban like this would likely lead to harassment and bullying of young people by competitors, opposing team parents, or any spectator who could call into question the young person's gender and qualification to compete.

Maine's state protecting gender identity from discrimination is something to be proud of, reflecting a set of issues that have been settled law for years. There is no need to unsettle this law and much harm that would be done in doing so.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!

David