

Kathleen Szostek

LD 233

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee

I am Kathleen Szostek of Dixfield. I'm here today testifying in support of LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704.

Are boys and girls the same? Men and women—the same? We would be denying biology and common sense if we ascribed to this thinking.

Men generally have higher cardiovascular capacity, greater bone density, and more muscle mass. Even before puberty, with the testosterone boost, the advantages in sports are evident overall. That makes it so unfair to have males competing in female sports.

For example, in 2017 alone, well over 4,300 males, including some under 18 years old, ran 400-meter times that were faster than the personal bests of U.S. Olympic gold medalists Sanya Richards-Ross and Allyson Felix. I'm quoting Dr. Gregory Brown here— a professor of exercise science at the University of Nebraska.

A UN report states that Female athletes are “more vulnerable to sustaining serious physical injuries when female-only sports spaces are opened to males, as documented in disciplines such as in volleyball, basketball, and soccer,” citing cases of severe injuries ranging from knocked-out teeth and broken legs to skull fractures and neurological impairment

The same UN report noted that testosterone suppression for biologically male athletes “will not eliminate the set of comparative performance advantages they have already acquired.”

I want to be clear: I don't endorse bullying. We can have compassion for female athletes in Maine and compassion with those who are uncomfortable in their body. It's not an either/or choice.

Let's do the right thing. No boys in girls sports and private spaces! It's only fair. I ask you to vote 'ought to pass' on these bills.

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