



TESTIMONY OF MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

IN OPPOSITION TO:

LD 2239: An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
State House, Room 438
Wednesday, April 14, 2026

Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Rebecca Boulos, and I am executive director of Maine Public Health Association.

MPHA is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse organization dedicated to advancing public health in Maine. We represent nearly 950 individual and 80 organizational members across the state, and our mission is to advance the health of all people and places in Maine. In our work, we place an emphasis on improving the policies, systems and environments that underlie health inequities because only by doing that can we improve health outcomes for *all* people.

MPHA opposes LD 2239: "An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex."

Results from the [2025 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey](#) show that transgender students are twice as likely as their cisgender peers to have 4 or more adverse childhood experiences; more than twice as likely to feel unsafe at school; more than twice as likely to feel sad or hopeless; and less likely to have support from adults other than their parents and less likely to feel like they matter to their community.

This bill and its proposed ballot initiative will further subject transgender youth to stigma, mistrust and maltreatment. It places an unfair and undue burden on them and increases their likelihood of worsened mental and physical health outcomes. To best promote the health of all students, we need to ensure our policies are not transphobic.

We firmly believe that all people should have fair and just opportunities to reach their full health potential. Research has consistently shown that factors outside of our control drive the opportunities that are available to us and thus impact our health status and outcomes.¹ Research has also shown that health disparities are expensive and reduce productivity.² These barriers to health are systematic, predictable, avoidable, and unfair. Ensuring equal protection for all people advances health for all people. We believe this bill and the proposed ballot initiative contribute to worse health outcomes, and as such, we are in opposition. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ World Health Organization. [Social determinants of health](#). 2025.

² LaVeist TA, Pérez-Stable EJ, Richard P, et al. The economic burden of racial, ethnic, and educational health inequities in the US. *JAMA*. 2023.