

Elizabeth Brooker
Augusta
LD 2239

Elizabeth Brooker
Augusta, Maine
April 14, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Elizabeth Brooker, I am a licensed clinical social worker, working at Gardiner Area High School. I am one of the advisors of the Gay Straight Diversity Alliance. I work with all the students in the high school, and support, advocate and am an ally for the LGBTQIA+ students. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239

Our students are already facing enough challenges in the current environment without adding in unnecessary legislation that prevents students from being accepted, embraced, or valued for who they are. Maine is one of the few states that have included transgender in our civil rights law. Our transgender students need to be protected from the hate that continues to be thrown at them in this divisive society.

The proposed ballot measure is an extreme, blanket ban that doesn't fit in Maine communities. The proposal's language is a vague, poorly defined, "one-size-fits all" approach that would be difficult and expensive for schools to implement, likely causing more chaos and distraction for students, and opens huge litigation risks for schools. As a school employee I can tell you firsthand that we have much bigger issues to deal with than who uses what bathroom and who plays on what sports team.

Our energy and resources should be spent on addressing inequalities in sports, including lack of funding and unequal access to facilities. But this measure would make schools use their scarce resources on requirements like having staff check ALL student's birth certificates in order to use the bathroom.

We cannot open the door to laws and government policing or controlling our bodies. This proposal would repeal our foundational Maine Human Rights Act and leave Mainers with fewer civil rights protections. As a mother, clinician, school employee, advocate, and lifelong Mainer I am severely concerned about any bill that takes away rights from our citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please do what is best for our students, schools, and community.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Brooker, LCSW