

Testimony in Opposition of LD 2239

“An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex”

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Katie Brydon, and I am writing to oppose LD 2239. I urge you to reject this bill, as it serves only to cause harm to children and raises serious concerns under Title 5 of the Maine Human Rights Act.

I am writing this testimony as a mother, an educator, and a public servant in Bangor, currently serving as the Vice Chair of the Bangor School Committee. Please note that this testimony is in no way a reflection of the entire Bangor School Department Board. I share this so you understand the experience and perspective informing my request.

In all of these roles, my responsibility is to help ensure that schools are safe, supportive places for every student who walks through the door.

That means creating environments where students can learn, grow, and participate fully—without fear of being singled out, excluded, or scrutinized for who they are.

As a parent, I expect to send my children into a school where their bodies are not policed, where they feel safe being themselves, and where they are not taught—explicitly or implicitly—that some people deserve access and others do not.

LD 2239 moves us in the wrong direction.

This bill does not solve a clearly defined problem in our schools. What it does do is create confusion, invite scrutiny of students’ identities, and open the door to policies that single out and isolate already vulnerable children.

Maine law already requires schools to ensure students are not discriminated against and have equal access to school life. This bill moves us away from that responsibility, not closer to it.

That is not the role of schools.

Schools should model belonging, fairness, and care for one another. When we introduce policies that require schools to question who students are in order to determine where they belong, we undermine that foundation.

We already know that when students feel safe and included, they do better—academically, socially, and emotionally. When students are targeted or excluded, the harm is real.

Our job is to protect all children.

LD 2239 does not do that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Brydon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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