

Perrin Chick  
South Berwick, Maine  
April 13, 2026

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

I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239. As a resident of South Berwick, Maine, a parent of a student who attended Marshwood High School, and a person who has worked in or adjacent to the education field for 30 years, I want to take a moment to express my opposition to this bill.

I believe this proposal would harm young people I know and love. Have had the honor of getting to know youth in my community and across our state, who just want to live their life as their unique selves. No one should be asked to prove anything to anyone just to use a 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.

None of the educators that I know and work with have the time, resources, or desire to police people in this way. 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 our educators and districts to implement, likely causing more distraction for students, and opens schools to huge litigation risks.

And I am horrified and mad that some out-of-state billionaire can influence our state in this way. Maine should be making exercise for our youth's physical wellbeing more readily available to every kid, and we should be highlighting how team camaraderie is an incredible way to improve the mental health of our kiddos. We should not be preventing youth from being physically active or connected to communities. Yet you have let an outsider come in and divide us and bring this measure forward, which we didn't ask for, and it's bad for our kids because it is not inclusive.

Please consider my request to oppose the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239. Thank you for thinking about our youth and their need to belong, to exercise, and their rights to exist and use bathrooms.

Perrin Chick