

Jennifer Curran
Falmouth, ME
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jennifer Curran and I am a resident of Falmouth. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239. As a social worker, I believe that our state laws should and must protect freedom and fairness of our citizens. We cannot allow the government to control what individuals do with their bodies. This proposal would repeal the foundational Maine Human Rights Act and would leave Mainers with much fewer civil rights protections.

In 2004/2005, I participated in walking door to door to advocate for LD1196. This legislation amended the Maine Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation...including gender identity as a protected class. This was no small act. It took years for us to educate and finally pass this legislation. We spent countless hours working to educate Mainers on why these protections are needed. They are clearly still needed today.

Here we are again...right back to what is driving LD 2239. Fear and misinformation. As reported by the Maine Principals' Association, only 2 transgender students are participating in sports in Maine. Clearly a small minority of students in our schools here in Maine. These kids are working hard to thrive in their schools. Denying them the opportunity to do so will not only hurt these kids but send a chilling legal precedence that othering these kids is ok. Legislation that makes it ok to deny this small number of kids opportunities, opportunities that their peers are allowed, will cause terrible harm.

We have had transgender kids and athletes in our schools for decades without any issues.

Let's continue to embrace inclusion, equity, dignity and tolerance. Please do not support LD 2239, it hurts kids and schools.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.