

Sorrel Dunn
Bath
LD 2239
Sorrel Dunn
Bath, Maine
13 April, 2026

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

My name is Sorrel Dunn. I am a resident of Bath, and I write to express my opposition to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239. The fact that this proposal was funded entirely by one out-of-state billionaire should give us pause. Our legislation needs to be by Mainers and for Mainers in order to best serve our collective interests and honor our democratic agency. I believe this bill is about a national, ideological agenda that targets trans children and youth as pawns in a larger political game. Our schools should provide a safe environment in which to foster learning, skill-building, and intellectual exploration, and none of this can happen if students' basic needs of respect, safety, and belonging are unmet. LD 2239 would undermine these educational baselines and functions with its proposition of a blanket ban on trans kids' full participation in school activities and spaces. This is dangerous to wellbeing and the lives of trans kids. Researchers at the Trevor Project have found that Anti-Trans laws cause up to 72% increases in suicide attempts among trans and non-binary youth (<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/anti-transgender-laws-cause-up-to-72-increase-in-suicide-attempts-among-transgender-and-nonbinary-youth-study-shows/>). This is devastating. Every student who dies, let alone who dies by suicide, leaves ripples of trauma and grief in their communities, which further damages the fabric of society and, with it, the ability of schools and teachers to do their jobs.

It is our duty and our honor as adults to protect ALL the children around us; to give them the space and the safety to become adults themselves. LD 2239 is a violation of that duty, in deceitful guise, and it must be opposed.

Sincerely,
Sorrel Dunn