

Charles Ellis
Westbrook
LD 2239

Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee,

My name is Chuck Ellis, a lifelong Mainer and current resident of Westbrook, Maine. I host the Muddy Waters podcast, where I recently had the privilege of speaking at length with Leyland Streiff, principal officer of Protect Girls Sports in Maine and leader of the Maine Girl Dads. Mr. Streiff also delivered powerful testimony before this committee in support of LD 2239. I urge you to support this common-sense legislation, which simply restores and protects sex-based civil rights that generations of Maine children — especially our daughters — have long relied upon.

This bill is not about exclusion. As Leyland Streiff clearly explained on my podcast (Episode 166) and in his state house testimony, LD 2239 does three straightforward things:

1. It defines “sex” as the biological status of male or female as recorded on a person’s original birth certificate — a definition fully aligned with every major medical organization.
2. It requires public schools to designate athletic teams as male, female, or co-ed.
3. It requires schools to designate private facilities — bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers — by sex.

That’s it. No student is banned from sports. Every child still gets to compete. The bill simply ensures that the categories and spaces created to protect fairness, safety, and privacy are based on immutable biology rather than self-identified gender. As Streiff has repeatedly emphasized, this is “not a new concept or a new right. This is a reclamation of the sex-based civil rights of our state’s most vulnerable population — our children.”

****Fairness in sports is not bigotry — it is biology.****

Biological males, on average, possess significant advantages in strength, speed, and endurance that emerge at puberty and are not erased by identity or hormones. When we allow males into female categories, we do not “include” — we displace girls from podiums, scholarships, and records they have earned. Leyland Streiff has pointed out that we can respect how people present their gender while still refusing to erase sex-based protections. We cannot include someone’s gender identity at the expense of discriminating on the basis of everyone else’s sex.

****Privacy and safety in intimate spaces matter.****

Girls and boys deserve single-sex locker rooms, showers, and bathrooms. This is not about fear; it is about dignity and basic human reality. When standards become unclear, participation drops and trust erodes — exactly as Streiff has testified. LD 2239 restores the clear, sex-based boundaries that have always existed to protect children.

****This is about equal protection under the law.****

The bill explicitly preserves full ADA protections for students with verifiable differences of sex development. It ends sex-based discrimination by giving sex the equal protection and opportunity it has always deserved under Maine and federal law (including the spirit of Title IX). It is progressive in the truest sense: it respects individual identity while refusing to sacrifice the hard-won rights of the other half of the student population.

Maine families have already spoken — more than 82,000 citizens signed the petition to put this on the November ballot. The Maine Principals’ Association and the Legislature refused to act, so parents and citizens did. This is democracy at its most basic: protecting our daughters’ sports and spaces through the ballot box.

I ask the Committee to report LD 2239 out favorably. Our children’s civil rights, fairness in competition, and privacy in school facilities are not partisan issues. They are parental issues. They are Maine issues.

Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,

Chuck Ellis

Westbrook , Maine