

Penelope Elwell
Brunswick
LD 2239

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am writing in opposition to the ballot measure LD 2239. I am a retired after 30 years of teaching, much of it in Maine.

I have a transgender daughter. She grew up in Maine. She left for a while, lived in a few different places, and came back to Maine because this is home. She is watching what happens today, and so am I.

This initiative was not born from the concerns of Maine families. It was purchased. \$800,000 from one out-of-state billionaire, who paid out-of-state consultants to hire out-of-state signature gatherers to change policy in a state he has never lived in. That is not democracy. That is a checkbook. And I am asking this legislature not to cash it. My daughter is not a threat to anyone. None of these kids are. They want to play sports, be on a team, be part of something. What this bill actually does is give adults permission to question and scrutinize children about their bodies and their identities. That is not protection. I did not raise my daughter to be invisible, and I am not going to stand back quietly while someone who has never met her tries to buy her erasure. Maine has held the line on this before. Hold it again.