

Patricia Goodhines
Bangor
LD 2239

Patricia Goodhines, PhD
Bangor, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Dr. Patricia Goodhines and I'm a clinical psychologist and resident of Bangor. I am strongly opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239.

This proposal--funded entirely by one out-of-state billionaire in order to influence the 2026 midterm elections--would repeal our foundational Maine Human Rights Act and leave Mainers with fewer civil rights protections. Further, this poorly-defined proposal would be difficult and expensive for schools to implement, likely causing more chaos and distraction for students, and opens huge litigation risks for schools.

Even more importantly, I know as a clinical psychologist that LD 2239 would be simply devastating to Maine children and communities. We know that anti-trans initiatives such as sports bans cause depression and suicide in trans youth, and makes them targets of bullying and life-threatening violence. Proposals like this are quite literally a matter of life or death for some of our state's most vulnerable children.

We cannot allow out-of-state extremists to buy themselves political power at the expense of Maine kids. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.