

Claire Gélinas  
West Paris  
LD 2239

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

My name is Claire Gélinas. I'm a resident of West Paris, and I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239. This proposal would repeal our foundational Maine Human Rights Act and leave us with fewer civil rights protections. That's just not right.

It's not surprising to me that this mean-spirited ballot measure is largely funded by ONE out-of-state billionaire — Richard Uihlein.

Last May, hundreds of Mainers showed up in person in Augusta to testify with our words and our presence against a series of anti-trans bills whose boilerplate language was drafted by a multi-million dollar multiple-state consortium targeting LGBTQ people. This latest is just another cynical attempt to gain power by isolating us from one another, cruel to some, harming every one of us.

When I hear about a young person who has committed suicide, like many other LGBTQ people I find myself wondering who told them their life was not worth living, and why. I would love to live in a world where I can stop asking this question.

Yes, we should be addressing inequalities in sports, including lack of funding and unequal access to facilities. But this measure would make schools use their scarce resources on requirements like having staff check ALL student's birth certificates in order to use the bathroom.

Thank you