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Testimony in opposition:

LD 2239, "An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex"

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

April 14, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Laura Harper. I'm a senior associate at Moose Ridge Associates and I live in Hallowell. I am here today on behalf of my client, Maine Family Planning (MFP) to speak against LD 2239, "An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex."

MFP provides comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care to teens and adults at 19 locations statewide. Our mission is to ensure that all people have access to high-quality, culturally relevant and affordable sexual and reproductive health care services, comprehensive sexual health education, and the right to control their sexual and reproductive lives.

Trans youth deserve safety, care, and joy. They deserve to dance, draw, dream, and discover. They deserve to run, explore, grow, and simply be kids - without fear, barriers, and without hate. At MFP we stand firmly with trans youth. We believe in their right to healthcare, to self-determination, to celebration - not just survival. We will never stop fighting for a world where trans kids are not only safe but deeply loved and supported. We are proud to provide gender-affirming care for Mainers. Trans youth belong here. They always have, and they always will.

This bill discriminates against transgender students, a violation of both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including against people who are transgender or intersex and the Maine Human Rights Act adopted protections for gender identity in 2005. MFP supports current law wholeheartedly. Furthermore, to enforce the law proposed by this bill would mean invasive examinations of female athletes and students. It would reinforce gender-based stereotypes by putting public scrutiny on any girl or young woman who looks "too tall" or "too strong" and invite inappropriate scrutinizing of girls' bodies.

Instead, we urge you to support *all* Maine students and uphold Maine law and our constitution. Let's send a strong message to trans youth that they belong here, whether on the field, the ice, or the court. Participating in sports teaches important values like perseverance, dedication,

self-assurance, and teamwork. Let's not deprive any student from these opportunities for building strength and self-confidence.

Thank you for your attention and I'm happy to try to answer any questions you may have.