

Rev. Tara Humphries
Portland
LD 2239

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South Portland, Maine
April 13, 2026

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

My name is Rev. Tara Humphries, I live in South Portland, and serve as the Minister of Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239.

I oppose the proposed ballot measure as a lifelong Mainer who benefited from many years as a student athlete in Maine public schools, as a trans-nonbinary adult having competed in women's sports, as a taxpayer concerned about the use of resources our schools so desperately need, and as a religious leader who supports Maine families including queer and trans children who face enormous barriers to thriving due to the public discourse surrounding their identities.

Maine state laws should protect freedom and fairness: We can't open the door to laws and government policing or controlling our children's bodies. This proposal would repeal our foundational Maine Human Rights Act and leave Mainers with fewer civil rights protections. Funded by one out-of-state billionaire in order to influence the 2026 midterm elections, this is not what Mainers want. Let's not sell our kids and our democracy to the highest bidder.

This blanket ban does not fit in Maine. It's expensive, unjust, distracting, and puts our schools at huge litigation risk. Let's focus less on checking student's birth certificates before letting them use the bathroom, and more on empowering our young people to thrive.

With much gratitude for your time and the opportunity to share my thoughts with the Committee.