

Amy Larkin
Arundel, Maine
4/14/2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Amy Larkin, I live in Arundel and I am writing to you today in opposition to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239, "An Act To Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex."

I grew up playing sports. Through elementary and middle school I played three, and continued soccer through most of high school. Being a student athlete taught me lessons that stuck well beyond the field: how to lose with grace, celebrate teammates, and show up for my friends and classmates. What I loved most was the sense of belonging. It didn't matter who was shy, who was nerdy, or even who'd already had their growth spurt. We all had a place.

I even talked a few friends who swore they "weren't sports people" into joining the JV soccer team. They did and ended up loving it. We rode buses across southern Maine together, wore our pajamas to class on game days, and decorated each other's lockers.

That's what youth sports are supposed to be about, the inclusion, confidence, and joy. Every child should have the chance to experience that if they want to. Unfortunately, this bill tries to "fix" something that isn't broken. In reality, it would do the opposite. It would harm girls, not protect them. Policies like this invite invasive scrutiny and so-called "gender checks" that threaten the privacy and dignity of every girl and woman who participates in sports.

In this critical moment in history, it's important we protect ALL Maine children. One of the ways we can do that is by not opening the door to laws attempting to control or police our bodies in any way. To put our schools, who are already stretched for resources, in a position to check birth certificates before using a bathroom or locker room is absurd and a waste of time and money. We can invest in making sports safer and more equal, but this spends valuable resources on a problem that doesn't exist. There are so many ways to help Maine girls, women, and students, but this isn't one of them.

Maine's young athletes deserve support and encouragement, not suspicion and exclusion. Thank you for your time on this very important issue and for listening today.

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