

Patricia Lowell  
Waterville  
LD 2239

Testimony in Opposition to LD 2239 / IB 3  
An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex

I am writing to oppose LD 2239.

This bill is being framed as something simple, but in practice it would create unnecessary harm for students who are already trying to navigate school, identity, and social pressure. Schools should be places where kids feel safe showing up as themselves, not places where they are singled out or excluded.

Sports are supposed to be about teamwork, growth, and belonging. For many students, especially those who don't feel like they fit in elsewhere, being part of a team is one of the few places they feel accepted. Policies like this risk taking that away, not because of behavior or ability, but because of who they are.

It also puts schools and staff in an uncomfortable and unclear position. Enforcing something like this raises real questions about privacy and dignity. No student should have to prove or justify themselves just to participate in school activities or use basic facilities. That kind of environment invites scrutiny, embarrassment, and conflict, not fairness.

I think it's important to recognize that these situations are not as common as they are sometimes made out to be, but the impact of legislation like this is very real for the students it affects. Even for kids who are not directly impacted, it sends a message about who belongs and who doesn't.

There are better ways to support all students without creating division. Schools should be focused on inclusion, respect, and making sure every student has the opportunity to participate and feel safe.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 2239.