

Kae McCarty  
Portland  
LD 2239

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Dr. Kae McCarty. I am a resident of Portland, ME, a professor focused on equal access to sport and exercise for all movers, and I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239. For one, children in Maine are already at a high risk for sedentary behavior and subsequent adverse health effects like heart attack and stroke, leading to a strain on our saturated and dwindling healthcare system. Dictating who can and cannot play in sport does nothing for retention of activity, instead it is a further deterrent. For two, not only is this bill extremely vague and harmful to Maine's children, I am concerned that voters will be victim to the massive disinformation campaign around trans athletes and will therefore not be an informed enough populace to decide on the issue in good faith. The science repeatedly proves that there is no evidence of 'unfair advantage' or risk of injury when trans athletes participate in sport at any level. Yet unsubstantiated worries of both remain based on fear mongering and misinformation. In fact, the real worry should be at how women and girls are more likely to experience sexual assault by a coach than they are to experience any physical harm or overpowering by a trans athlete. Lastly, we are talking about an issue that represents 0.0001% of Maine's population. Why is this the most compelling use of our time and capacity as voters when we could be addressing the rising costs of basic essentials for Mainers and access to healthcare in rural communities? I implore you not to pass this ballot measure immediately and to do your due diligence to ensure voters are properly informed on the issue by November. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.