

Anna McLean
Biddeford
LD 2239

April 13, 2026

Testimony in opposition of LD 2239, “An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex”

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

I am writing to oppose LD 2239 as it threatens the health and well-being of a vulnerable group, gender diverse youth. Gender diverse youth are already experiencing increased victimization, bullying, and isolation when compared to their cis-gendered peers; all of which yield an increased risk for mental health challenges and suicide. It is our responsibility to protect children and teens in our state to the best of our ability and LD 2239 discriminates against gender diverse youth.

Healthy child development relies on enriching experiences with peers and other families. Participation in public school athletics should be accessible to ALL children as it allows important opportunities for fun, team building skills, overcoming fear, and coping with disappointment. It is well established that participation in athletics and extracurricular activities are protective and are associated with desirable academic outcomes. It is our duty to encourage a welcoming and inclusive environment for all children in our schools. Gender diverse youth are not predators; they are children who are seeking the same experiences as other children.

As a child psychiatrist in training, I urge you to oppose this dangerous and discriminatory legislation. Through my clinical work, I witness the devastating impacts of anti-LGBTQ ideology on Maine's youth on a daily basis. Support of LD 2239 would send a strong message to the gender diverse youth in our state that you do not view them as equal to their peers.

Thank you,

Anna McLean, DO