

Carney D. McRae
Rockland, Maine
April 13, 2026

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Carney McRae. I am a resident of Rockland and a member of the First Universalist Church in Rockland. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239.

This proposal was funded by one out-of-state billionaire whose intent is to upset the midterm 2026 elections. This is unethical in my opinion.

I personally know children who are gender-fluid or transgender; I know them as children who love to play with other children, including sports, without any gender identity attached. At the elementary level, gender should not even be an issue – sports should be non-competitive, emphasizing fair play and being a good team player. Even at the high school level, team sports should not be so competitive that a student is banned from a team because of gender. High school teams are not professional. They have friendly competitions, and learn about winning and losing and being good sports about it all. The majority of children just want to have fun, enjoy being with their friends, gain and hone new skills and have a sense of belonging.

When gender becomes an issue of creating unfair advantages for other teams, I believe we have lost the focus of what sports for children of all ages is about. And when a child gets spotlighted because they are gender-fluid or trans, their entire family is targeted by hateful people, many who come from other communities, causing emotional, mental and sometimes physical harm. This takes away the joy that sports bring to young people, and those parents and community supporters who love to cheer them on. It breaks my heart to see this happen.

This is why I am opposed to LD 2239. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.