

Kate Merritt
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LD 2239

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Kate Merritt. I live in Bangor. I'm testifying in opposition to LD 2239, An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex.

If we take the legislation by its friendly title "to protect girls' sports in Maine", this act wildly fails to do what it claims.

This bigotry makes all our children less safe.

In their obsessive fantasies about the genitalia of schoolgirls, the authors of this piece of legislation seem to have somehow forgotten that trans boys exist. This law would compel them to compete on girls' teams where their gender affirming care makes it very likely that they would physically dominate. It will mean hairy, bearded trans boys wearing skirts and hitting harder because they have more muscle mass.

Additionally, the authors seem to forget that trans girls have breasts, which seems likely to make swimming competitions illegal if they are required to wear boys' swim uniforms. And finally, although there is a provision for girls to play on boys' teams rather than making a co-ed team, there's no provision for boys to play on girls' teams. That's blatantly discriminatory.

The definition of sex as the marker present on a person's original birth certificate ignores the reality of transgender and gender non-conforming people. Tacking on a hand-waving provision for a person who is born with a "biologically verifiable disorder or difference in sex development" does not satisfy the requirements of accessibility for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Saying in the summary that this doesn't violate the Maine Human Rights Act does not make that true. It does, in fact, violate the Maine Human Rights Act.

I urge you to reject this legislation in its entirety.