

Jamie Moore  
Portland  
LD 2239

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

I am grateful for the opportunity to offer my testimony to the Committee. My name is Jamie Moore and my pronouns are she/her. I am a registered voter in Portland, and I offer my testimony as a social worker and as a member of Luke's Garden (LGBTQIA+ group) at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure LD2239.

As a social worker, it is my duty and passion to improve the well-being of my community. As a Christian, I deeply believe that I am called to love all of my neighbors and to treat every human being with respect and dignity. As a mother, I want all children to feel accepted as they are and to feel safe in every environment in which they spend time. As a woman, I do not need other people to dictate what the standard is of womanhood, or to suffer intensified scrutiny to ensure I meet that standard.

This ballot measure pushes directly against all of my identities and values. Sports teams are one incredible way to build relationships and camaraderie. Should this ballot measure be enacted, I fear that transgender girls, transgender boys, nonbinary kids, and any girls who are already self-conscious about their bodies in middle and high schools will choose not to participate in sports in order to avoid disclosing private information about themselves that does not match how they present themselves to the world. I fear that adult policing of "biological sex" will set an example that it is okay for kids to also engage in that policing, setting up transgender students and girls who don't look "feminine enough" for more intense bullying. I fear that the increased isolation for these students will lead to even higher rates of depression and suicidal thoughts, particularly for transgender students who already experience these mental health issues at a much higher rate than their peers, who are also already going through so much in their teenage years. This sweeping ballot measure that will impact ALL girls in an attempt to keep a miniscule number of transgender girls from participating on girls teams is not protecting girls in sports. Rather, it is opening a new level of invasion of girls' privacy, dictating what girls must look like, and endorsing targeted discrimination. This will be detrimental to all students, harmful to girls, and devastating for transgender students. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.

Thank you,  
Jamie Moore