

F. N.
Topsham
LD 2239

I reside in Topsham. I am writing to voice disapproval of LD 2239.

When I first heard about this bill, I was leaving the polls and I heard signature collectors saying, "Want to sign this bill to keep the boys out of girls' sports?" which is an inaccurate and incomplete summary of this bill, which also requires that all students go into the bathroom and locker room of their assigned sex.

My daughter had trans friends in college and high school, some of them were "passing" and would find themselves in danger and in a state of dysphoria if they were suddenly required to go into the bathroom of their sex assigned at birth.

I also have worked with lots of people with autism, many of whom experience gender dysphoria and who make up a large percentage of teens who identify as transgender. Most people I know who are transgender prefer gender neutral bathrooms to reduce the potential for conflict and confrontation.

Since this bill must go to citizen referendum, I would suggest that citizens be allowed to vote yes or no to the different parts of this bill: 1) people assigned male at birth being disallowed from playing in girls' leagues, 2) people assigned female at birth being disallowed from playing in boys' leagues, 3) transgender students being FORCED to use locker rooms that align with their sex assigned at birth, and 4) transgender students being FORCED to use bathrooms that align with their sex assigned at birth. I also think there should be a note after each that says, "in spite of the fact that this may cause the transgender student to experience gender dysphoria, bullying, emotional distress, and increase the likelihood of suicidal thoughts and attempts" as research from the Trevor Project indicates. I think voters should have those students' distress on their minds as they make these decisions.

In sum, this legislation takes far too many aggressive steps that would cause distress for vulnerable youth, while adding NO protective measures, like adding single stall gender neutral bathrooms and changing areas. Mt. Ararat Middle School had gender neutral single stall bathrooms before this controversy began, and this has been a great way to keep ALL students away from sharing drugs and bullying that happened in the group bathrooms that Gen X endured.

Most of the transgender youth I have known just want to be left alone and don't want to be the subject of this controversy.