

Stephanie Nelson  
Newcastle  
LD 2239

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Newcastle, ME  
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Stephanie Nelson. I am a resident of Newcastle and have served on my local school board for nine years, six of those as board chair. I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed ballot measure LD 2239.

This measure - which was funded by a single billionaire - seeks to exclude, alienate and shame a small vulnerable population of students. LD 2239 is in direct conflict with current state and federal laws that require schools to include and support diverse and disadvantaged students in order to give all students the same opportunities. Transgender students are no different. They deserve the same opportunities and protections as all other students. This ballot measure would pro-actively discriminate against transgender students.

Mainers value local control of our schools, yet the ballot measure would replace local control with a blanket ban on transgender students' participation in sports and other activities, and deny transgender students the same freedoms enjoyed by other students.

This ballot measure is not about sports, it's about using children as political pawns in an effort to marginalize the transgender community. Can you imagine any other group of students being targeted and vilified in this way! No child or adult should ever be discriminated against because of their identity. This ballot measure is an outrageous affront to all Mainers and our sense of shared humanity..

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion on this cruel ballot measure.

Stephanie Nelson  
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