

April 14, 2026

To: The Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: MELISSA PRESCOTT - NORWAY, ME

Re: Testimony in Opposition to LD 2239

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Melissa Prescott, a resident of Norway, and I am strongly opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239, which reflects a harmful nationwide attack on transgender, intersex, and gender-nonconforming people.

As a teacher of more than 20 years, and an advisor to my school's civil rights team, I've seen how essential it is to create inclusive environments for all students - including trans and nonbinary youth. These students deserve equal opportunities to participate in sports, to belong, and to thrive. Sports are not just games - they build community, develop leadership, and support mental health. They should be accessible and welcoming for everyone.

As an athlete and official with over a decade of roller derby experience, I've competed with athletes of all genders - including trans women, nonbinary athletes and cis men. Claims that trans athletes have an unfair advantage are not grounded in reality. Some of the hardest hits I've taken came from cisgender women. In roller derby, as in all sports, success depends on skill, strategy, and teamwork - not gender identity. Denying children the chance to play with their friends based on unfounded fears is unfair, and policies like this invite harmful scrutiny of all girls' and women's bodies.

This extreme, one-size-fits-all ban has no place in Maine. Its vague language would be difficult and costly for schools to implement - creating confusion, distraction, and serious legal risks at a time when districts already face budget shortfalls and staff cuts.

Instead of addressing real inequities in sports - like underfunding and unequal access - this measure would make schools use scarce resources on requirements like having staff check ALL students' birth certificates in order to use the bathroom.

Our laws in Maine should protect freedom and fairness, not police bodies. This proposal would weaken the Maine Human Rights Act and reduce civil rights protections for all Mainers.

It is also very concerning that this measure is **funded entirely by an out-of-state billionaire seeking to influence the 2026 midterm elections**. Maine communities should not be swayed by outside interests at the expense of our children and our values.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee, and thank you all for your time and commitment to liberty and justice for ALL.

Sincerely,
Melissa Prescott, she/her
Norway, ME 04268