

Darby Ray
Lewiston, ME
April 13, 2026

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing as a Lewiston homeowner, engaged citizen, and educator to urge you to do everything in your power to oppose the proposed ballot initiative, LD 2239.

I appreciate that you or others on the committee may be concerned about the safety of girls in our communities. As the mother of a daughter, I certainly share that concern. However, the well-being of girls is clearly nothing more than a pretense when it comes to this law – an excuse for supporting an ill-conceived, extreme measure that would sow division, anxiety, fear, and possibly violence in our schools and communities.

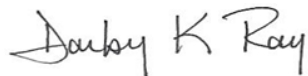
There are many better ways to support girls' safety and thriving than a law designed to stigmatize and punish already vulnerable youth. Today's world is brutal enough without us choosing to impose new brutalities on our most vulnerable citizens.

I have always been proud of the independent spirit of my fellow Mainers. We have strong opinions, and we don't always agree with each other, but we show up for those in need. The evidence is crystal clear that trans youth are already dangerously stigmatized, misunderstood, and vulnerable to bullying and abuse. They need our support and compassion. At the very least, they deserve our protection.

I urge you to do everything in your power to protect our most vulnerable children and youth by opposing the proposed ballot initiative, LD2239.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darby K. Ray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Darby K. Ray