

Christy Scheidt
Portland, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Christy Scheidt, I am a resident of Portland, Maine, and I am the parent of a transgender woman who went to high school in Maine. I am opposed to the proposed ballot measure, LD 2239, and I am writing to express my reasons why.

The proposed ballot measure is an extreme blanket ban that does not fit all Maine communities. My daughter realized she was a transgender female during High School. She attended a high school in Maine which was very accepting of diversity. One of the policies of this school allowed her to use the restroom that felt most appropriate and comfortable to her. This didn't cause problems with other students, but it went a long way to help her feel safe and an accepted part of the school community. LD2239, if passed, would prohibit this type of policy and restroom availability for transgender students, putting them at risk psychologically and socially, and also at potential physical risk.

My daughter did not participate in sports, but I find the effort to ban transgender students from participation in sports teams which align with their gender abhorrent. There is no scientific evidence that transgender females have innate advantages over their cisgender peers. Sports participation is an integral part of many students social, emotional, and physical maturation, and transgender students should be allowed full participation.

Finally, I am frightened by the way this bill, if passed, would subject all girls to a higher level of scrutiny. Any girl who looks "too masculine" will be at risk of attack or accusations of not being a "real female". How will these accusations be addressed? Will female students be subjected to genital checks? There is a high potential that female students will be less safe under this bill that is reportedly to protect them.

This proposal has been funded by a wealthy person who lives out of state. It was not brought forth by the people of Maine, and it should not be imposed on the residents of Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the committee.