To: Judiciary Committee
From: Dawn Brown, MSW
Date: April 14, 2026
Re: LD 2239: An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities By Sex

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

My name is Dawn Brown. I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers – Maine Chapter (NASW-ME). I am speaking today to express strong opposition to LD 2239: An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex. If passed this would cause significant harm by not providing a safe and supportive school environment for all Maine youth.

LD 2239 would discriminate and dishonor the dignity and worth of one of Maine's most vulnerable communities, our Transgender youth. During a time that we need to support all of our Maine youth this ballot measure would do the opposite. Transgender youth should have the same opportunities and be supported to utilize facilities and participate in sports that are aligned with their gender identity. The fear mongering that is utilized to try to justify this discrimination for safety is not only false, but also ignores and diminishes the psychological safety and adverse impact this will have on our Transgender youth.

At a time that we should be moving forward with truth and reconciliation to address a long history of discrimination against our LGBTQIA+ communities, this bill would lead to more distress and have us regress rather than progress. This would have a profound impact on all Maine youth as it cultivates a toxic school environment, which will lead to additional bullying and an increase in mental and potential physical harm, which we already need additional resources in our Schools to combat.

This ballot measure states that it does not violate the Maine Human Rights Act, yet it serves to decrease access based on one's gender identity. If we move forward with this, then who is next? In order for us to uplift our collective humanity and support the ability for all Maine Youth to be supported and accepted in our schools, I ask you to Vote No on LD 2239 - An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities By Sex. Thank you for your time and opportunity to speak with the committee today.

Sincerely,

Dawn Brown, MSW
NASW Maine Executive Director