

TO: Representative Smith
Senator Keim

DATE: May 15, 2023

RE: An Act to Require Parental Approval for Public School Employees to Use a Name or Pronoun Other than a Child's Given Name or Pronoun Corresponding to the Gender on the Child's Birth Certificate

Good Afternoon,

My name is Frankie Roberts. I'm a resident of Unity. I am here today as a member of LWVME's Youth Council. This program helps young people to explore how Maine's government works and build their civic leadership skills. This testimony does not represent LWVME's view only those of the Youth Council. I am testifying against LD 678.

If LD 678 is passed, transgender and non-binary kids all throughout Maine will feel threatened, frightened, and unprotected.

Despite Maine having the reputation of a welcoming and progressive state, there are still a number of closed minded individuals that live in our state. Unfortunately, some of these individuals are parents or guardians to transgender and non-binary youth— therefore making their homes an unaccepting place to live. When this is the case, many of these kids may find school to be their safe place.

Schools are supposed to be a welcoming environment where students feel safe and accepted, which includes students' right to be referred to with the correct pronouns and name. As stated before, some households are not a good environment for transgender and non-binary youth, and instead, these kids find comfort and safety at school. Whether it's from some of their favorite faculty or fellow peers; when students cannot be referred to correctly at home, they rely on this affirmation at school. By passing LD 678, the state of Maine is depriving students of this safe environment. For the sake of the transgender and non-binary youth in our state, LD 678 ought not to pass.

Thank you for your time,

Frankie Roberts

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Unity
LD 678

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Thank you for your time,
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