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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD 678: 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

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Rosamund Davis, MD. I am a resident of Hallowell, Maine and an active member and pediatric champion for the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am a pediatrician living and practicing in my home state of Maine, and I am vehemently opposed to this bill.

Dozens of medical societies, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, have published statements in support of providing gender affirming care for children and youth. These societies are comprised of physicians at the top of their field who carefully review evidence-based medical literature on gender affirming care prior to making their recommendations. They are unequivocal in their support of gender affirming care because the evidence shows that it leads to improved mental health and quality of life, as well as a decrease in suicide rates. A part of gender affirmation includes being part of a community that uses your preferred pronouns and name, regardless of whether they correspond with those assigned at birth.

Not all children are born into a home where their gender is affirmed by their family members. Given that gender affirming care (from medical treatment to social support) is recommended by medical societies, it would be gravely misguided for a bill written by a lay person to be signed in to law when it goes against the recommendations made by medical professionals and their societies.

I ask that as you consider this bill, you think about the wellbeing of our school children, not the emotional comfort of those who wish gender nonconforming children didn't exist. Please do not vote in favor of this bill that needlessly harms children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rosamund Davis, MD