

Barbara Arsenault
Mexico, Maine
LD 678

Dear Senator Anne Carney, Representative Matt Moonen and members of the Judicial Committee,

My name is Barbara C. Arsenault . I am a resident of Mexico (Maine) and a retired high school guidance counselor. I am testifying against LD678.

I understand the intent is for students to communicate to parents if they wish to be referred to in reference to another gender.

It was mentioned in a sponsors testimony that this bill would not violate the confidentiality that is part of a conversation in a guidance office but that is not part of the text in the bill. The confidentiality is imperative in a guidance office.

I also am concerned with the unintentional consequences of the bill as so many students simply go by nicknames or by their middle name . I asked my legislators, Rep. Tammy Schmursal - Burgess and Senator Keim if I understood it correctly that parental permission would be needed if a student wanted to be called Ron instead of Ronald. Rep. Schmursal - Burgess did not respond to that question and Sen. Keim responded that she thought it would be ANY name that would be different than the name on the birth certificate. Would this be an annual permission slip? If so I believe this is an unnecessary burden.

Thank you for your time. Barbara C. Arsenault M.Ed.