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LD 1002

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this matter. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1002.

A fundamental concept of good governance is that for any bill to pass or new law to be made, it must demonstrate a clear need or a benefit to society. LD 1002 purports to be for the purpose of "protecting children's identification" but takes a backwards approach to what would be sensible. First and foremost, a child should be able to be referred to by the name THEY prefer, rather than that upon which the parents insist. On top of the fact that this is a frivolous requirement not deserving of legal restriction in the first place, if such a bill WERE of enough importance to justify codifying it as law, the most sensible default position would be for it to be required of teachers to refer to students by the name parents supply written notice for--NOT what is dictated by their birth certificate NOR requiring written permission to use anything but. Most kids do not go by their full formal name, and a child named William should be able to go by Bill or Willy as a default if they prefer as opposed to needing express written permission for teachers to address them as such. If a parent really objects to what a teacher is referring to their child as to the point of necessitating action, they could then submit written direction supplying a list of permitted forms of address rather than all parents needing to submit documents so that their children may be referred to by something other than on their birth certificate.

As the very premise of this proposal is fundamentally flawed and would provide nothing but administrative hassle for the majority of students, teachers, and parents, LD 1002 should be rejected.