

august sender
montville
LD 1002

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony against multiple anti-trans bills. As an older transgender Mainer, who was never safe to come out a child, I do not want more trans youth to live in fear and with fewer opportunities than I received.

How many people do you know who do not go by the name on their birth certificate? Do you know someone who goes by their middle name, or a nickname? This bill would not allow them to do that while at school, leading to confusion and unnecessary feelings of lack of self.

It feels bad to be called the wrong name, no matter who you are.

As you likely know, according to the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, transgender youth have the highest suicide rates of any demographic. Over the past multiple surveys, over 50% of transgender high school students in Maine have seriously considered suicide. Over 25% attempted suicide. The many trans adults I know have all considered suicide or lost someone to suicide.

It is incredibly difficult to be transgender. We face isolation, exclusion, hate crimes, discrimination, threats of violence, hatred, disgust, and mistrust everywhere we go - simply because of the long history of fear and ignorance many people have about transgender people.

Please be a part of creating a better future for transgender youth in Maine, where they have access to support, resources, healthcare, community, and inclusion.

Please vote "No" on this bill.