

august sender
montville
LD 1704

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.

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.

Creating more restrictions will create more isolation and fear - the last thing that transgender kids need. They need support, understanding, loving families and communities, and access to the same opportunities as their peers.

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.