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LD 1002

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1002, “An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate.”

I am writing as a concerned [parent/resident/educator/citizen] who believes in the importance of clear, consistent identification practices within our public school system. This bill offers a straightforward policy: that schools should rely on a student’s legal documents—specifically, their birth certificate—when recording and referencing their name and gender. This ensures that school records align with official government identification, minimizing confusion and maintaining accurate documentation.

Public institutions, including schools, must operate within frameworks that are consistent, objective, and verifiable. Birth certificates are the standard legal documents used to establish identity from the moment a child is born. By anchoring school records to these documents, we promote clarity in record-keeping, enhance administrative efficiency, and reduce the potential for ambiguity or inconsistency across departments and agencies.

Furthermore, LD 1002 respects parental rights by not allowing changes to a student’s identity within the school system unless those changes have been legally affirmed and documented. Parents have a fundamental right to be informed and involved in decisions affecting their children, especially those as sensitive and significant as name and gender identification.

This bill also helps safeguard educators and administrators, many of whom may feel uncertain or legally vulnerable when navigating complex issues around gender identity. A clear, uniform policy based on legal documentation provides guidance and protects school staff from being placed in difficult or unclear situations.

LD 1002 does not prohibit families from seeking legal changes to a child's name or gender if they wish; it simply asks that such changes be formalized through existing legal processes before they are adopted in the educational environment.

In conclusion, LD 1002 is a reasonable and respectful measure that upholds the integrity of school records, protects the rights of parents, and supports school personnel in their work. I respectfully urge this committee to vote in favor of the bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.