

April 29, 2025

RE: LD1704 – An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex

My name is Douglass Moore, and I live in Sabattus. I am testifying in opposition to LD1704.

****Testimony in Opposition to LD 1704 – The “Bullies Welcome Act”**

I’m writing in opposition to LD 1704, a bill that seems to believe Maine’s most pressing educational issue is not funding, not staffing, not student mental health, but the terrifying possibility that a transgender teenager might use the correct bathroom.

LD 1704 would prohibit schools from allowing students to use restrooms that match their gender identity. But it doesn’t stop there. It sends a much louder message—not just to trans kids, but to every student watching.

It says: *“Hey, if your parents are bigots, you’re in luck! Now you can be one too—with government approval!”*

By codifying bathroom discrimination, this bill turns schools into training grounds for intolerance. It gives a green light to the next generation of bullies. Why just whisper slurs in the hallway when you can now back them up with state policy? LD 1704 practically hands out merit badges for cruelty: *“Congrats, you called a trans kid the wrong name and chased them out of the bathroom—here’s a civics credit!”*

Let’s be clear: trans kids aren’t a threat to anyone. But this bill teaches other students that their discomfort is more important than someone else’s humanity. That other people’s identities are up for debate. That compassion is optional, but policing other people’s bodies is encouraged.

And we know where that leads. It leads to harassment, isolation, and trauma—sometimes with lifelong consequences. All so adults can feel like they “took a stand,” while kids suffer the fallout.

This isn’t about safety. It’s about control, cruelty, and telling young people that if someone’s different, the best thing to do is punish them for it.

So please, vote NO on LD 1704. Not just for the sake of trans students—but for the sake of every kid in Maine who’s watching to see what kind of adults we’re asking them to become.

