

Lesley Andersen  
Saco  
LD 1704

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Lesley Andersen, I'm a resident of Saco, and I am here today as a Mainer and educator.

I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

LD 1704 would ban schools from making policies that affirm transgender students' right to use the bathroom aligned with their gender identity. This bill does not reflect the values of dignity and fairness. As a woman, I remember the years when women had to fight for equitable access to basic accommodations. This is no different.

Denying students access to bathrooms causes harm, isolation, and stigma. As a teacher, I am begging you not to enact legislation that would put my students in danger.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you