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LD 1704

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this testimony in opposition to LD LD 1704: 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.

This bill is a “bathroom ban” that would prohibit schools from creating policies allowing students to use a bathroom if that bathroom does not correspond to the student's sex assigned at birth.

As a former public-school teacher, I know that kids need to grow up and go to school in an environment where they are accepted and feel comfortable with who they are. Issues dealing with bathroom and locker room facilities need to be decided in a way that is fair and safe for all students. Local school districts can best do this.

Finally, this bill is just plain cruel. They focus on a small group of people who already face struggles and discrimination. Whether we understand trans people or not, we don't want to make life harder for them. Maine is better than that.