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I recommend the legislature Ought not to Pass this bill.

Main Concerns:

- Mandates deadnaming and misgendering of transgender and nonbinary students.
- Increases harm to student mental health, self-esteem, and sense of belonging.
- Disregards the realities of unsupportive or unsafe home environments.

Key Talking Points:

- Violates the Maine Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in education based on gender identity.
- Deadnaming = referring to someone by a name they no longer use; it's harmful and deeply invalidating.
- Being affirmed in name and pronouns reduces depression by 71% and suicide attempts by 65% (Journal of Adolescent Health).
- Erikson's psychosocial theory: adolescence is a critical identity-formation period—this bill enforces "role confusion."
- Educators already collaborate with families while also supporting student well-being and privacy.
- Personalize: Have you ever used a nickname? Imagine being forced to use a name that doesn't reflect who you are.