



Fred McCann

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**Testimony in Opposition 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**

May 6th, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of Committee on Judiciary, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this legislation. My name is Fred McCann. I'm a resident of Portland and I'm currently serving as Vice President on the Portland Water District Board of Trustees.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to this bill and I am deeply concerned about the harm this bill would cause to our community's most vulnerable members, particularly transgender and gender nonconforming children.

First and foremost, schools should be places where every student feels safe, supported, and welcome. This bill, if passed, would undermine the very foundation of a supportive learning environment by forcing educators to call students by their legal, rather than chosen, name and gender. This unnecessary and harmful intrusion into a student's personal life could have devastating consequences, including increased bullying, harassment, and even suicide.

It is clear that this bill is driven solely by animus towards transgender and gender nonconforming individuals, and serves no legitimate educational purpose. It is also likely to violate the Maine Human Rights Act.

Furthermore, the bill's language is too broad and vague. If enforced as written, it would not only single out transgender and gender nonconforming students but also prevent educators from using any nickname or shortened version of a student's name, including common ones used by cisgender students. This would subject educators to unfair legal liability for simply addressing their students in a respectful and familiar manner.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose LD 1002. It is discriminatory, harmful, and has no place in our state's educational policies. Instead, we should be working towards creating inclusive environments where all students can thrive, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

Sincerely,

Fred McCann