

Chelsea Moody
Brunswick
LD 1704

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Brunswick, ME
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee: I want to begin by thanking you for taking the time to read this testimony. My name is Chelsea Moody and I live in Brunswick. I write today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I am particularly concerned about LD 868, LD 1134, and LD 1704, and their provisions that would block people from using bathrooms that do not align with their sex assigned at birth. Being able to use a bathroom is a simple act of dignity that we all deserve. As someone with multiple trans loved ones, I cannot imagine this dignity being taken away from them. When trans youth cannot use bathrooms that match their gender identity they are at higher risk for sexual assault. We cannot expose our community members to such unnecessary risk while also stripping them of basic dignities.

I would strongly encourage the committee to consider the ways that these bills extend beyond harming trans folks. As a woman with Crohn's disease, I am constantly thinking about where I can find bathrooms. When I am experiencing a flare up it is essential that I am able to access a bathroom. Luckily, as a college student, I am often able to find open bathrooms on campus. But the women's restroom is not always open, and in situations where I need a bathroom immediately, I use the men's room. If my school shut down the option of using whatever bathroom is closest to me when I need it the most, I would have an incredibly hard time operating. There are thousands of others like me across Maine who need to be able to use a bathroom in emergency situations - it is a matter of medical safety as well as a matter of dignity. We all deserve the ability to access bathrooms when we need them, whether we are trans, are struggling with a common illness, or simply need a bathroom. Passing these bills would eliminate that ability for many throughout the state and put unnecessary restrictions on people just trying to address their basic needs.

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