

Alisha Heal  
Kennebunk  
LD 1002

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Kennebunk, Maine  
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Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Alisha Heal and I am a resident of Kennebunk Maine, clinical social worker, parent and concerned citizen. I am offering written testimony against LD 1002. I work with many trans youth whose only place to be fully seen and recognized as their authentic self is by their teachers and peers at school. Restricting school administration and staff from respecting the preferred names and pronouns of their students is in direct contradiction with Maine school's values of treating all students with dignity, respect and protections for emotional and physical safety. For trans youth, being called by their correct name and pronouns is life changing and more often than not, life saving. The highest rates of depression and suicide are for trans youth and allowing schools to provide a safe space for trans youth is life changing for these students. Restricting schools from using trans kids' preferred names and pronouns will not stop these youth from being trans; it will merely create another discriminatory space that marginalized youth must attempt to endure. For the mental health and well being of all our children, I urge you to vote no on LD 1002.