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LD 1704

I am here to strongly oppose LD 1704—not just as a citizen of Maine, but as someone who believes that the measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable.

This bill, at its heart, is not about restrooms. It's about fear. It's about control. It's about singling out transgender youth—some of the most at-risk, marginalized, and misunderstood students in our schools—and telling them they don't belong.

Now, I come from a tradition of justice. A tradition that says our strength as a nation is not found in how we treat the powerful, but in how we stand up for the dignity and humanity of those with the least voice in the room. And let me tell you—there is no justice in forcing a child to choose between their safety and their identity. There is no dignity in a government telling a young person that who they are is somehow “against the rules.”

We have a choice in this moment. We can legislate inclusion or we can legislate fear. LD 1704 chooses fear. It forbids school districts from adopting policies that support and affirm trans students. It tells educators and administrators—who are doing the hard, human work of creating safe environments—that they are not allowed to act with compassion.

Let me be crystal clear: there is no epidemic of harm being caused by transgender students using the restroom that aligns with their identity. That is a myth. What there is, is an epidemic of bullying, depression, and suicide among transgender youth. And bills like this make it worse.

This is not hypothetical. When we pass policies that isolate and target kids, we don't just legislate exclusion—we legislate trauma. We legislate pain. We legislate the message that some children are less worthy of protection, less worthy of respect.

And I refuse to accept that.

I believe in a Maine—and an America—where every child is seen, where every student is safe, and where every human being is treated with dignity. LD 1704 stands in direct opposition to those values.

So I ask you, from a place of moral clarity and civic responsibility: Vote no on this bill. Do not let our laws become tools of division. Let them be instruments of justice.

Thank you.