

Hal Earle  
Westbrook  
LD 1002

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the Committee. My name is Hal Earle, I'm a resident of Westbrook. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I was a transgender teenager twenty years ago. A number of the bills before you today would have directly and negatively impacted my experience, had they existed at the time. Socially transitioning (changing my physical appearance, using my chosen name, using male pronouns) relieved some of the enormous distress I felt around being perceived as female. The acceptance I received from classmates and teachers lessened the burden and shame I felt about being trans. If teachers had been forced to call me the name/sex on my birth certificate, as required by proposed bill LD 1002, I would have experienced more depression, suicidal ideation, and school avoidance. Transgender teens today already experience an onslaught of hate and corresponding worsening mental health outcomes. Adding bills like LD1002 will make things worse with no clear benefit for any student.

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