

Hal Earle
Westbrook
LD 1704

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. As soon as I began socially transitioning I was perceived as male by those around me. Each encounter with a women's bathroom/locker room was fraught with discomfort, embarrassment, questions about my identity and presence, or hostility. I consider myself very lucky to have never encountered physical violence in a restroom. Each of the bathroom bills before you would force transgender students into the same scenarios I faced, forcing them to choose between holding their pee and risking assault. Transgender teens have enough challenges facing them already, please let them pee in peace.

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!