

Carney McRae
Rockland
LD 1704

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Carney McRae. I am a resident of Rockland and I am testifying in opposition to LD 1704. As a Director of Religious Exploration for two Unitarian Universalist congregations, I work with all ages to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

I believe this LD should NOT become law because children should be allowed to use the bathroom that most aligns with their gender identity if they choose. It does not cause harm. I have been in several public schools during events. School bathrooms have stalls with closed doors or multiple individual bathrooms, so that students can use the facilities privately. Targeting children because of their gender identity causes harm by not allowing a child to be their authentic self. This only increases bullying and trauma. I have a gender-fluid grandchild, and they have to constantly be cautious about how they participate in school. Children should not have to fear being themselves when they are at school. When they feel safe, they can excel in their studies, which is what I hope we all want. I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1704.

Thank you.

Carney D. McRae