

Anne Callender  
Portland  
LD 1704

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee-

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

My name is Anne Callender and I am a resident of Portland, and I am writing on behalf of humanity and protecting the most vulnerable.

I am in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I can't think of anything more vile than enacting laws to discriminate against children and in turn teaching them how to be disrespectful of others. Schools should be places that foster community, respect, kindness, empathy and compassion. The key components of safe environments for education and growth. Not all children or people are the same, and we all have different needs. These bills are not fixing a problem, they are creating space for bullying, harassment, and discrimination. Biology is not black or white, there are many colors in the crayon box. As much as some folks want to proclaim there are only two sexes, that's not reality. Maine understands this reality and adopted protections for gender identity in 2005. For the happiness and safety for everyone, we need to keep it that way.

Schools should not be limited on the basis of the construct of sex to regulate bathroom usage in ways that may not be advantageous for their school. What would be more humiliating than having to prove your gender to use a bathroom or not have a bathroom that you can use.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Don't let hate have a home here in Maine.