

Kat Moraros
Yarmouth
LD 1002

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Yarmouth, Maine
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee: thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Kat Moraros, I'm a resident of Yarmouth. I am writing in opposition of Bill LD 1002 before the committee this morning.

I am a nonbinary, adult professional theater artist who frequently tours educational programs into schools. I have seen firsthand the emotional harm that is done when trans and nonbinary students are accidentally deadnamed (referred to as their name assigned at birth when they've chosen a new name) or misgendered in a school setting. I have also personally felt the pain of being misgendered as an adult. LD 1002 would require schools to purposefully cause this pain to these students on a daily basis.

When Representative Laurel Libby posted about the Greely High School student athlete on her Facebook page and purposefully misgendered her, Libby allowed unfettered attacks on the entire trans community. Commenters were dehumanizing the underage athlete, calling her "it" and saying she deserved to be bullied or institutionalized. When my trans friends came to her defense, they were accused of being groomers, child predators, and were threatened. If LD 1002 passes, this Committee is approving of that behavior, making it acceptable on a State-wide level to bully trans kids in a place where they are supposed to be safe.

To be perfectly clear, "Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate" with a trans or nonbinary child is bullying. It is abusive. It is morally wrong.

I urge you to consider that trans students and nonbinary people like myself are simply living as who we are meant to be. Trans people are not actively causing harm to anyone – whereas these Bills WOULD actively cause harm to them. The number of trans students in Maine is so small, and targeting them with discriminatory laws not only sets our great state backwards in terms of protections, but also opens them up for bullying, assault, or worse.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.

Thank you!