

Deb Sewall
Hallowell
LD 233

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

I offer this testimony in strong opposition to passage of LDs 233, 868, 1002, 1134, and 1704. As a mother who brought up two kids in Maine, and a children's librarian in for many years, I have come in contact with many kinds of children. People who work with children get to see the whole gamut of traits, talents, and abilities that human beings are capable of, and we try our best every day to offer a safe place for all kids to learn and to develop into their best selves. Some days are harder than others, but that's the goal.

Maine's public schools have shown leadership and courage on this issue, they have put children first, and they deserve our support. Discriminating against transgender kids doesn't just hurt their feelings, it is wrong, it endangers their health and welfare - and we have seen it have tragic outcomes. Instead, let's treat every child the way we would want our own to be treated.

Please stand up for the independence, fairness, and compassion that Maine is famous for. Keep the protections that Maine has wisely enacted on the books.