

Kelsey Kobik
Freedom, ME
LD 1002

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee, and thank you for hearing and considering my request and the reasons behind it. I am Kelsey Kobik, a resident of Freedom, Maine, testifying as a concerned citizen. I am writing in opposition to LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, LD 380. These bills are harmful to ordinary, normal Mainers. They normalize, and would codify concepts harmful to all of us and our Maine culture: That girls need to be protected from boys, that boys cannot be trusted, that existing laws protecting all Mainers (including women) from violence will never be properly enforced, and that a penis is inherently a threat and a weapon.

The fear and anxiety at the root of these illogical and harmful bills is a lack of understanding. It's clear that no doctors who actually treat adolescents have been consulted: it's common for binary cisgender people to need hormone treatment to be healthy, and some of these bills would create barriers to medical treatment that is not related to gender affirming care. A culture of fear harms our healthcare system. A culture of fear harms children!

Teachers and nurturers of children have used nicknames for children, either of the child's own choosing or with the child's approval, for as long as history remembers. LD 1002 is a massive, invasive overstep that would make using nicknames illegal. I know you know how absurd that sounds.

Trans people are ordinary, normal Mainers. Throughout history and in cultures all around the world, including in those rooted in European Christianity like ours, there have lived people who do not conform to a gender binary in expression or biology. Furthermore, a conservatively estimated 1 in 100 people are born with intersex traits that place their biological gender in between the male-female binary. This is also a normal part of humanity. If you don't know that trans, non-binary, and intersex people are a normal part of our population, it may be that you have not shown yourself to be someone who can be trusted not to persecute or oppress others.

Finally, I can't express how appalled I am by LD 1432. What kind of society would remove a group from human rights protections!? Not a sane one, not one with integrity.

Please reject and protect us all from LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1704, LD 1337, LD 1432, and LD 380. We can't live up to our motto, Dirigo, by turning back the clock on civil rights, gender equality, and human rights.

Thank you for your time and attention.