

brett archambault  
portland  
LD 1002

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Portland, 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 Brett Archambault, and I'm a resident of Portland, and I am writing on behalf of trans youth in the state of Maine. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

Queer youth everywhere need safe spaces to exist, grow, explore, and just be themselves. The bills on the table today do not create safe spaces, they take them away. I am a lifelong Mainer, and if I hadn't had safe spaces growing up I probably would not be here today. Playing sports in middle and high school gave me an outlet for my energy, gave me a new family, and was a safe space to be myself. If we take these spaces and opportunities away, to be quite frank, we might lose some of our students to suicide. We need to protect our youth, show them that we care, and that they are incredibly valuable. We need to let them know that they matter and are important.

LD 233, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, and LD 1704 all seek to restrict young Mainers from finding places and activities where they might find safety and purpose. Bills like these violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. Bills like these also embolden the already bold who discriminate against minorities across the state.

If these bills pass today, we risk losing a precious demographic to suicide due to bullying.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on these bills. Thank you!