

Emily Connelly
Portland
LD 1704

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, ~~SEP~~^{SEP} Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Emily Connelly, I am a resident of Portland, and I am a parent of elementary school-age children in our public school system. I am writing today in opposition LD 1704.

As a parent of two public school age students, I know that these bills would hurt Maine schools and communities. I absolutely do not want my or any of our children facing invasive investigations into their gender before they can use the bathroom, something we've also already established as a right for transgender students in Maine. Laws policing people's gender won't just impact trans kids, but would open up all of our children to harmful "gender checks" that would invade their privacy.

Trans people and trans kids need our support, not these attacks on their rights to exist. Trans friends and loved ones tell me they just want to be able to be themselves and live their lives in peace. When it comes to going to the bathroom, I'm sure they want what any of us want—privacy. Schools should be creating a supportive environment for all of our students, not policing gender norms. If kids are scared of going to the bathroom for fear of someone thinking they're in the "wrong" one, do you think they're going to be able to be comfortable and ready to learn?

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on this bill. Thank you.