Emily Connelly
Portland
LD 1002

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, 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 of LD 1002.

This bill would hurt Maine schools and communities. As a parent, I do not want us to be making laws policing how public schools address our children. If children are learning more about themselves and realizing they want to use different pronouns or go by a different name, why should the state get involved? I would love for our kids to be in a supportive environment where they feel comfortable to be themselves.

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. This bill doesn't help anyone, it just will make trans kids lives harder—frankly it would make everyone's lives harder. Rather than crafting bills targeting public schools over unnecessary new policies, let's focus on how we can better support schools, staff, and students, to make sure all schools have what they need.

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.