

Ptricia Shearman  
Norway  
LD 1002

Patricia A. Shearman  
Norway ME  
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Patricia Shearman and I have lived in Norway, Maine for 35 years. I am opposed to LD 1002, An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate.

Many know the Johnny Cash song, "A Boy Named Sue." It's a funny song but clearly states the case against this proposed law that masks a hidden agenda for biased conformity at all costs.

I am 75 years old and never knew a transgender or intersex person as a friend or acquaintance until a few years ago. I now hope that others will open their hearts and minds to the variety of people that nature has made for us to befriend. Calling a Brown-Eyed Susan a flower or calling it a weed does not change its beauty. This proposed law seems based on narrow-minded thinking that could affect young people in dangerous ways, such as suicide or bullying, by not affirming their sense of self, for no educational reason.

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