Heather Sylvester Durham, ME LD 1002

This is not a protection act, but an act of discrimination against those children who in discovering themselves and being true to how they feel they identify would not be allowed to use alternative names. It has been standard practice to use names with which a child most identifies whether or not it is on their birth certificate. This does not protect a child's identity, but instead limits their self-determination for both name and gender. The majority of a child's time in life is spent within the educational system i.e. school and that environment should be supportive, welcoming, and affirming in all aspects of a child's self-determination.