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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony, I am grateful that I can address the committee on this subject. My name is Chloe Selene and I live in the fourth ward of Biddeford. I am writing on behalf of myself, as an adult, transgender resident of Maine: to state that I oppose the bills before the committee.

I value my place in Maine's community. While living here I changed my name as part of my medical and social transition. I am very grateful to York County Probate Court for conducting my name change process and Hearing with great kindness and professionalism. This experience (among others such as working with welcoming staff at the BMV and Biddeford City Hall) have given me a sense of connection and membership both to Biddeford, York County, and to Maine. However, I still plan my life around avoiding public restrooms because of the climate of fear and hostility cultivated by bills such as those proposed. I don't want to make anyone uncomfortable or breach anyone's trust. Once I reached a certain point in my transition, I realized that, as long as we have gendered bathrooms, it would be dishonest of me to continue using men's rest rooms. However, due to the arguments supporting similar bills in other states: I also avoid using women's bathrooms, because I am afraid of being harassed or assaulted, because my legal rights are constantly debated, and because I don't know each building's policy. I don't understand what danger I, or younger people like me, pose to require such bills? My physical health, mental health, and ability to work have all improved since I started my transition. Every step has been taken in full cooperation with my Doctors and the WPATH SOC 8 transgender healthcare standards.

The organization GLAAD (an organization that tracks barriers for LGBTQ people) has stated on bills like these: "These discriminatory endeavors are part of the broader, escalating wave of attacks on basic civil rights." They also state that: "'According to the Movement Advancement Project, bathroom bans can result in [high rates of harassment and violence](#) against transgender people as well as cisgender people, particularly women who do not conform to traditional ideas of femininity.'" (G2025) Being transgender or nonbinary does not make us dangerous - we are just following the most current guidance of our therapists and doctors.

These bills would make participating in public life more difficult and dangerous for transgender residents. "In fact, nondiscrimination laws cover much more than public restrooms and are necessary in order for LGBTQ people to be treated fairly and equally in employment, housing, and public spaces." (G2017) I need protections like the ones in Maine's constitution to keep protecting me while I access Maine's public buildings. And my younger transgender colleges need to be able to learn in an environment that is not hostile to them just for following up-to-date clinical guidance.

I am hopeful that the rejection of these bills will make me safer and more able to participate in Maine's public life. I want to live here, to pay taxes here, to belong in Maine. Therefore, I thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. And I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you!

Citations:

G2025 <https://glaad.org/fact-sheet-misleading-narratives-about-transgender-people-and-restrooms-locker-rooms-and-other-single-sex-spaces/>

G2017 [https://media.glaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/25203412/Debunking the Bathroom Bill Myth 2017-305.pdf](https://media.glaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/25203412/Debunking%20the%20Bathroom%20Bill%20Myth%202017-305.pdf)