

Patricia Goodhines  
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LD 1002

Patricia Goodhines  
Bangor, Maine  
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As a clinical psychologist, I know that LD 1002 and similar bills would be simply devastating to Maine children and communities. Restricting a child's developing autonomy by thwarting their freedom of expression is disrespectful, degrading, and harmful to long-term identity development. We know that using the incorrect name and pronouns for trans youth specifically causes depression and suicide, and makes them targets of bullying and life-threatening violence. Bills like this are quite literally a matter of life or death for some of our state's most vulnerable children.

Tell me then, will this bill really protect our children? People choose to go by preferred names, nick names, and middle names all the time. So why are trans children, a very very small percentage of our state's population, being targeted so aggressively and violently?

Because these bills have far-reaching and damaging effects for ALL children, not just trans children. Will you side with Maine children, or will you side with their bullies?

Maine must stand up against the national political agenda interfering with our rights to make our own laws. Bills that discriminate against transgender students violate both state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection. They will open the door and set a dangerous precedent for more extreme anti-trans legislation, further endangering Mainers. LD 1002 is simply discriminatory. Changes to Maine law are unnecessary, and help no one.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on LD 1002 and similar bills today. Thank you.