

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee.

My name is Marie Véronique Emonds, and I am a resident of South Portland.

I am writing in opposition to LD 1002.

This bill is a totally unnecessary intrusion upon the lives of our citizens and would create an extra administrative burden upon our schools, which are already stretched to the limit. While the bill appears to be obviously motivated by anti-transgender animus, it would have far-reaching consequences. If this bill were enacted into law, then it would become illegal to address a boy named Matthew as “Matt,” or a girl named Alexandria as “Alex,” without their parents having to take time out of their day, maybe even take time off of work, in order to travel to their children’s school and fill out administrative paperwork.

A similar law passed in Indiana in 2023 (HB 1608) has resulted in widespread frustration from parents. Reporting in the Indianapolis Star in August 2023 included comments from parents such as “It’s a stunning waste of time and resources for most parents,” as the parent explained that he had received a form from his son’s school asking for his permission to call his son Benjamin “Ben” while at school. Another parent said she had to log into a web portal to affirm that her daughter’s school staff could call her child “Rosie” instead of “Rosemarie.” The parents said both children have used their nicknames for almost their entire lives.

Our state is already facing struggles with providing a quality education to each of our students, due to inflation raising costs and federal efforts to eliminate the Department of Education and funding for Title I programs. Let’s not add an additional burden to our schools with an unnecessary piece of legislation that adds an administrative burden and does nothing to improve our children’s education.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought not to Pass” on this bill.