

James Bailey
Hampden
LD 233

Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee: my name is James Bailey and I am a Hampden resident. This testimony is being submitted in opposition to all eight bills before the committee for public hearing on Thursday, May 8, 2025.

Today, it is transgender individuals. This is the latest iteration of attempts by conservative groups to scapegoat, marginalize, and "other" a group of people - typically over an immutable characteristic - as a means of manufacturing a problem and fomenting an emotional crusade.

Yesterday, it was homosexuals. Before that, it was Black people and others of color. And before that, women. It is within living memory that certain groups believed that being left-handed was evil and sinister ("left" in Latin is "sinistra"). It's been atheists, Jews, and Muslims; Irish, Japanese, and Native Americans.

Every few years a new group is identified and targeted, and a new crusade begins. The individuals on the front line today would have been the same that were photographed with Ruby Bridges. The arguments being made are literally those of segregation in the mid-20th century. There is no evidence that trans girls and trans women are any more of a threat than anyone else.

What will tomorrow bring? What is the next group? Will I be a part of it? Or will you? All of these bills Ought Not To Pass and ought not to have been submitted in the first place.