

Ash Cheshire
Brunswick, ME
May 8, 2025

SENATOR CARNEY, REPRESENTATIVE KUHN, AND
HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Ash Cheshire and I am writing in opposition to this entire slate of bills targeting transgender youth and community members in Maine.

These bills will kill.

Let me be clear: these proposals will not protect anyone. What they will do is isolate trans kids, endanger trans lives, and send a cruel message: that some of us are less worthy of dignity, privacy, and safety.

I've lived through what it means to be othered. I know what it feels like to have your name, body, and very existence debated by people who have never had to defend themselves. And I know this: **no law you write will erase who we are.** We've already survived more than you can imagine, and we are still here, learning, creating, and protecting each other.

These bills would deny kids the right to be called by their name, to play alongside their friends, and to use the bathroom in peace. They would force educators to become enforcers of gender, and make schools more hostile, not safer. And for what? For fear? For politics?

Every trans kid in Maine deserves the same things all kids deserve: care, safety, community, and a future. These bills don't offer that. They offer shame. Surveillance. Silence.

This is not just about policy. This is about literal lives. And I'm asking you, as a trans person, as someone who nearly didn't make it, as someone who believes in a future where we all belong, to do the right thing. **Vote no. Let trans kids grow up knowing they are not a problem to be solved. Let them know they are loved.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ash ches.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ash Cheshire

CONTACT

ashcheshire.com
ashcheshire@ashcheshire.com
(304)621-2665