

Susan Dickson-Smith  
ORONO  
LD 1002

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Susan Dickson-Smith and I live in Orono, Maine.

I am writing to oppose LD 1002, and all the bills being heard on May 8, because these bills all discriminate against transgender and nonbinary students.

As a friend to many adults, as well as some teens, who have changed their birth names to better reflect their gender identity, I know how important it is to be called by the name you have chosen for yourself. Being "deadnamed," or referred to by the name on one's birth certificate, instead of the name that best fits your gender identification, is painful. This bill would undermine the sense of self, safety, and community affirmation that is so important to transgender and nonbinary students. Maine has long protected its LGBTQ community against discrimination. Now is not the time to roll back those protections. I urge you to vote NO on all of the following bills: LD 233, LD 380, LD 868, LD 1002, LD 1134, LD 1337, LD 1432 and LD 1704.

Thank you.