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Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important bills. My name is Robin Alden. I am a resident of Stonington. I am speaking in opposition to the bills before the Committee today.

I speak as a parent today. My husband and I learned about transgender issues through our son. We learned them first-hand, gradually, over a 21-year period as he grew up. When we started, we knew nothing about this universal part of the human condition. We learned haltingly, awkwardly, alongside our son. At that time, we did not have the amount of information that has since become available to parents, children, and educators.

Our son's experience needing to transition had nothing to do with persuasion or popular thinking. It came from inside him, himself. I witnessed this and can share with you what it feels like to be a parent of a child for whom "nothing fits." A child who said, at 18 months, "No pink! No lace!" A child who wanted GI Joes, no dresses, and a boy's haircut. Our gradual recognition that this wasn't a tomboy. Living through his suicidal years until he found his path to becoming a trans man.

Many of these bills, specifically LDs 233, 868, 1134, 1704, would amount to "bathroom bills." Please do not underestimate the importance of being able to go to the bathroom. When we traveled with our son, he routinely planned to be able to avoid using a bathroom for hours. Imagine the dilemma of having no place to go to the bathroom safely. Imagine it.

These bills would require our son, as a trans man, to have to go back to the Ladies' Room. He will undoubtedly be arrested. And humiliated. Likewise, a trans woman should not have to go to the Men's Room, where she would undoubtedly be subjected to personal danger or assault.

This issue is a matter of human rights, as are the rights that would be removed through LDs 1337, 1432, and 380. When, at 21, our son decided to transition to male, it was like a second, joyous birth. ***Our son is a human being who exists as his own, unique person, as each of the rest of us do.***

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills. My thanks.