

Julie Lewis
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LD 1134

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose LD 1002 - An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate. The changes in this document are discriminatory, unnecessary, and help no one. The continued focus on transgender issues, particularly at the elementary, secondary and postsecondary school level is causing unimaginable harm to students and emboldening bullies to harass not only the trans community but girls as well, with taunting accusations. The changes are a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist.

I would ask that you trust the professionals. Trust the American Academy of Pediatrics, the doctors, the nurses, the mental health professionals, the educators, the Maine Principals Association, the teachers and the coaches. Trust the children and their families. All of these professionals should and do support students – ALL students, regardless.

Thank you for your consideration.