

Sarah Shepro
Portland
LD 1704

Honorable members of the judiciary committee,

My name is Sarah Shepro, I'm a resident of Portland. I'm writing to strongly oppose LD1704, and the other anti-trans bills being heard by the committee today. These bills are nothing more than an unjustified attempt to systematically erase trans people.

I'd like to point out logical issues that have long bothered me about bathroom bans. Public bathrooms are not high security spaces. If you're genuinely worried about women and girls being assaulted in bathrooms, please consider that anyone can enter a public bathroom at any time no matter their gender identity. It's never been illegal for cisgender boys and men to enter a female bathroom, so why prohibit trans girls and women from using a female bathroom?

As a cisgender woman, I've often used male bathrooms and facilities when necessary. This is pretty common practice across the country - we have all seen the long lines for female bathrooms and couldn't wait our turn. People also make mistakes, it's easy to walk into the wrong bathroom without knowing. How does this bill apply in those cases?

I'm genuinely not sure what the problem is with trans females using female facilities or why we need to continue litigating this non-issue. I'm not opposed to unisex facilities, I don't see a problem with men and women and people who don't identify as either using the same bathroom. A bar in Portland has a bathroom with multiple stalls that is not restricted by gender, and that works just fine.

There is a problem with banning trans females from using female facilities, though. Anytime we exclude certain groups of people from public spaces, we are moving backwards.

Thank you for your time.
Sarah