

Tyler Rukstales  
Waterville  
LD 1704

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Tyler Rukstales and I am a constituent of Waterville. I am writing this testimony on behalf of my transgender peers and the community as a whole. I am testifying against LD1704. We live in a day and age where children's restroom activities are being monitored and enforced by adults who are far too invested in the genitals of our maine children. I have not yet heard pf a school that has genuinely adopted a policy for students to use bathrooms other than their assigned sex, and have found most schools to be unequipped to handle children who do not align with their sex at birth. However, if there are schools with specific policies allowing children to use their bathrooms of choice, then I ask: Why is this such a huge point of concern? All children need to use the toilet, and for transgender children, that simply means using the bathroom that they feel the most comfortable in. There is no reason why the state needs to be so invested in the bathroom habits of its student body, as long as it is not disruptive. Whether transgender students choose to use the bathroom of their assigned sex at birth or not, they are at risk of bullying and harassment, sometimes even leading to assault. Last year, a transgender student was killed in the aftermath of a fight in the bathroom of their assigned sex at birth. Their name was Nex Benedict. Please, stop trying to throw our transgender children under the bus to further your goals. Nothing good will come from hurting our children. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to vote "Ought not to pass" on LD1704