

Sarae Pacetta  
Portland  
LD 1002

My name is Sarae Pacetta, and I'm the parent of a transgender 17 year old in Portland.

I am writing testimony against LD 1002.

I have seen firsthand the deeply frightening, traumatic experience of transgender children being called by what they often think of as their "deadname." It is an existential crisis for trans kids to be called by a name that they don't feel is theirs, and to be referred to as a gender that does not feel right. And to have this happen in front of their peers is damaging. I have seen children begin a spiral into self harm, deep depression and suicidality after being misgendered and deadnamed in their school settings. All of the research backs this up. Please help us protect the mental health of our beautiful transgender children in Maine.

Thank you for taking the time with my testimony.