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Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Rebecca Cohen, and I am a math teacher at Deering High School in Portland. I am writing in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

Requiring teachers like me to use the name specified on each child's birth certificate would be an absurd policy. This policy would not only negatively impact transgender students but would make school a less welcoming place for any student with a nickname.

Being forbidden to refer to students by their chosen names doesn't sound like "protecting children's identification," it sounds like bullying. I want my students to feel safe and comfortable in my classroom, and I want to spend my time teaching my students, not explaining to them why I have to call them by a name that they don't like or that nobody else uses for them.

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