

Katherine Branch
SOUTH PARIS
LD 1002

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

My name is Katherine Branch from South Paris. I am asking you to oppose LD1002. I have friends and family who have experienced bullying and hardship in school and at home due to stigma around gender and sexual identity. These harms are not only painful in the moment but have lasting health impacts – ie higher risk for depression, substance use, and chronic illnesses.

Unfortunately, some homes are dangerous, for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes school is the safest place for kids because their teachers call them by their chosen name and pronoun or let them use the bathroom they feel safest in. That's a win from my perspective. Taking away that support puts them at even great risk of harm.

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on LD1002these bills.

Thank you, Katherine