

The Joint Standing Judiciary Committee
Testimony of Catey Draper, Cape Elizabeth, ME

Against LD 1704

LD 1704: An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex

May 8, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Catey Draper, and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth, ME. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1704.

This act to prohibit a school administrative unit from adopting a policy that allows a student to use a restroom designated for use by the opposite sex will hurt my school-aged friends and neighbors. Banning students from bathrooms increases physical and mental health issues. The school environment should be one where every student receives an education in and outside of the classroom and is able to take care of physical needs at the same time.

This gender-based ban would target all girls, making them vulnerable to physical scrutiny and harassment, exacerbating the vulnerable experience of identifying as female. Any attempt to enforce this ban violates the privacy of all Maine women and girls.

Changes to Maine law are unnecessary and help no one, regardless of gender.

Respectfully,

Catey Draper
Cape Elizabeth, ME