

**Aaron Rose**

Harpowell, Maine

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**LD 1002: An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to  
Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Aaron Rose, I am a resident of Harpswell, and a freshman in the honors college at UMO. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee. During my four years at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, I had many friends with gender dysphoria, including a roommate. Though MSSM is an inclusive community, many faced backlash from people outside the school. Due to this hostility, I lost one friend to suicide, found the note for another, and was the first responder to my roommate's attempt.

A strong support system is crucial for transgender and non-binary youth. Youth with gender dysphoria who felt accepted by a school staff member reported 8.9% fewer suicide attempts in 2020 in comparison to those who had no support structure at school (Price, Green). Beyond this, for this bill to affect a youth, they must not have support at home. This lack of familial support may mean that a teacher is the only person that a gender dysphoric youth feels accepted by. In the same study, it was found that gender dysphoric youth who felt accepted by at least one adult saw a 40% reduction in suicide rates. Gender dysphoria is becoming increasingly recognized; in 2021, over 42,000 children were diagnosed, up from under 25,000 the previous year (Respaut, Terhune). The passing of this bill will result in an increased suicide rate among

Maine youth. As such, I urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1002. Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Price MN, Green AE. Association of Gender Identity Acceptance with Fewer Suicide Attempts Among Transgender and Nonbinary Youth. *Transgend Health*. 2023 Feb 8;8(1):56-63. doi: 10.1089/trgh.2021.0079. PMID: 36895315; PMCID: PMC9991447. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9991447/pdf/trgh.2021.0079.pdf>

Respaut, R., & Terhune, C. (2022, October 6). Putting numbers on the rise in children seeking gender care. *Reuters Investigates*. <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-transyouth-data/>