

Aaron Rose

Harpswell, Maine

May 8, 2025

**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**

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. I am here in opposition of the bills before the committee today. LD 1704 is a generalized answer to a complex issue. Regardless of the validity of the claims that this bill aims to prevent, it is too basic to account for the variety of problems it encompasses. This bill would prevent school administrators from installing policies that conform to the reality of each school's situation. I agree that a school that has reports of misconduct relating to gendered spaces should put policies into effect to prevent these issues. I ask you to consider the fact that there are schools in which this misconduct is prevalent against the gender queer population in cisgendered spaces, not perpetrated by them.

As I stated earlier this morning, “compared to non-restricted youth of the same gender identity and sex assigned at birth, school restrooms/locker room restrictions were associated with” 1.54 times the risk of sexual assault to non-cisgender individuals(Murchison, Agénor, Reisner, Watson). I plead with you, don't abandon Maine's genderqueer youth. According to the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, 1.6% of Maine high schoolers identify as transgender, with another 1.6% questioning. In total, this accounts for more than 1800 students across the state. Given that in 2019 “the prevalence of sexual assault in the past 12 months was 25.9%” whereas “youth subject to restroom/locker room restrictions had an overall sexual assault

prevalence of 36.0%” you can statistically extrapolate that the passing of LD 1704 would cause an average of 181.8 sexual assaults on genderqueer highschoolers in the next year. I ask that you vote ought not to pass on LD 1704. Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Murchison GR, Agénor M, Reisner SL, Watson RJ. School Restroom and Locker Room Restrictions and Sexual Assault Risk Among Transgender Youth. *Pediatrics*. 2019 Jun;143(6):e20182902. doi: 10.1542/peds.2018-2902. Epub 2019 May 6. PMID: 31061223; PMCID: PMC8849575.