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LD 1002

I am a trans woman writing to express opposition to 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"

People change. Children change especially rapidly. One day they may wish to be an astronaut, a doctor, a truck driver, and the next day it changes. Life at school is about learning, both about the world and about yourself. A small amount of children may want to go by another name, or even by different pronouns. Doing so does not hurt anyone. Some kids may go back quickly, or try something else. Trans children may stick with what they choose as their new name and gender.

When I was in school, there was a child named Robert. Eventually, he preferred to go by Rob. Later than that, he went by Bob. Teachers had no problem adjusting each time. One of our teachers got married and changed her last name. No one had a problem with it. I went by a nickname for several years, and again no one had a problem with it. This only appears to be a 'problem' when it involves gender and trans children.

Legal name and preferred names have always been different. A good example of this is English actor Michael Caine, born Maurice Micklewhite. He has used the name Michael Caine publicly since the 1960s, but only changed his legal name to that in 2016. He didn't harm anyone by having a preferred name that differed from his legal name. Many other celebrities have similar stories. Why should children be forced to go by their legal name only? The only answer I can come to is simple hatred of trans people.

A child questioning and learning about themselves should be encouraged. Only they can answer the question of who they are, and what they want to be. Let them grow and find themselves, instead of forcing them to conform. The only thing this bill does is make life worse for a minority.

I urge the committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1002.