

cam howard
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LD 1002

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

My name is cam howard, I currently live in Belfast. I grew up in Princeton ME and I have also lived in Portland, and I am a transsexual nonbinary person - which means that I am a person pursuing a medical transition with a gender identity that is neither male or female. I am here today in opposition of the bills before the committee today.

Dr. Jules Gil-Peterson, in her work studying the history of transgender children, has pointed out that much of the rhetoric against transgender children centers on the notion that Parents know what is best for a child, more than the child does. This idea often comes, whether parents are able to recognize it or not, from the implicit cultural notion that a person's child is their property.

Children are not the property of their parents. A person's decision about what name they would like to be called is their own to make and experiment with, regardless of their age or gender identity. This bill eliminates one way that young people have to define themselves on their own terms at school, an important place where students learn what it means to be a part of a community. This is a bill that would not improve anyone's lives - it would just be a tool used to foster a controlling and fear based environment between students and the adults in their lives.

I urge you not to pass this ridiculous bill, and I honestly urge the members of the committee who drafted this legislature to consider why it is that they are working on such draconian rules when there are so many legitimate crises facing our communities.

Thank you for your time.