

Ailish Kress
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LD 1002

My name is Ailish Kress (pronouns she/her), and I work as a mental health counselor and part-time as a high school coach (track and field).

Is LD 1002 a ban on nicknames? Why? I have one athlete who prefers his nickname, which I believe arose on the football team, so much so that he doesn't respond at first to his legal name. You have to repeat it a few times. This law seems silly. I can tell that its intended to intimidate or harass kids who want to change their name, pronouns, or gender when their parents don't agree (as well as intimidate the teachers and staff who support them), but the way it's written seems to also cover nicknames, name truncations, or names foreign language teachers give to students (as some of them do to help practice the language). It may also cause problems and emotional harm to adopted children, whose current legal names may be different from the names on their birth certificates.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on this bill.