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LD 1002

As a citizen of the state of Maine, I am disgusted by this bill. As a social worker and Christian, it goes against everything I have ever learned.

The Golden Rule. We all know it. And I want us to take a moment to reflect on it. If this were me, how would I want to be treated? Because here is what research proves:

Trans children are more likely to be suicidal and attempt suicide.

Trans children are more likely to be rejected by their parents and to fear that this could happen.

All it takes is one person, especially an adult, seeing them and accepting them for who they are to help a rejected or traumatized child to begin healing.

For most kids that are marginalized by their family (due to beliefs, neglect or abuse), that one person that saved them was a teacher. A teacher that believed in them.

JD Vance was born James Donald Vance. He has changed his birth certificate so "JD" is his official name. This bill would require us to continue to call him James.

A student in school named "James" would not be able to go by "Jimmy" even if that is what he preferred. "Steven" could not be "Steve" "Addiline" could not be "Addy".

But most importantly, children would not feel seen, heard, or accepted. No teacher is saying keep a parent out of it. As a school mental health professional, my ethics require me to do my best to encourage children to connect with their families and keep their families as involved as possible.

Not only is this bill too stilted for a cis child, but it will further marginalized an already ostracized group of children that just need to be loved.

Please vote ought not to pass on 1002.