

Testimony in 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

May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Anne D. (Andy) Burt. I live in Edgecomb, Maine. I strongly oppose 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. I also oppose all of the bills you are hearing today denying equal rights to educational opportunities, healthcare, and the pursuit of happiness and one's potential to Maine's transgender children and adult citizens.

I am a long-time member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) who believe there is that of God in every person/every person is sacred/is a holy place, and therefore we oppose war, the death penalty, and other forms of violence against others. Who a person is as a holy child of God on the inside, one's authentic gender self, may not correspond with how the person presents biologically.

When a baby is born, the only information available to assign a name and gender to that individual and inscribe it on a birth certificate is what the doctor and parents see physically. Some children as they grow up, even at a very early age, awaken to the reality that their body gender isn't the gender they are on the inside. I'm sure you will hear personal testimony today from transgender adults, parents of transgender youth and adult children, who have been through this awakening experience.

Insisting that schools must identify a student by the name and gender specified on their birth certificate in effect puts that child back in the delivery room and cruelly invalidates the growing up and awakening process they have experienced that generally includes choosing a new name that reflects who they are authentically.

I honor those who have the courage to emerge as the gender they understand they truly are. In many cultures transgender (two-spirit)

individuals are held in high regard as they share insights from both the masculine and feminine perspective. May we also open our hearts and minds and come to cherish and respect the authentic self of all.

I strongly urge you to vote **OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 1002** as well as all of the bills focused on transgender rights you are considering this morning and afternoon.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Anne Burt
Edgecomb
LD 1002

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