

Rebecca Stern
Portland, Maine
May 8th, 2025

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

My name is Rebecca Stern, and I am writing to you today both as a resident of Maine and the principal of South Portland Middle School. I am writing today in opposition of all the anti-trans bills before the committee today.

In middle school, students are already well into their journey of becoming their adult selves. Kids are given responsibility and voice in new ways for the first time. They are in a crucially important stage of development, where students will internalize their sense of self. Our message to our students is this: You belong here, as you are. You are cared for and loved and seen for your true self. We support kids as they learn and grow and change, but we make sure that students know they are worthy of love and belonging as they are.

This is why I oppose the bills before you today. These bills undermine our students' humanity. Denying people the opportunity to be who they are- showing them through law that their being is illegal- fundamentally and negatively impacts students who are not cisgendered. Considering one group of people less than because they don't conform is the antithesis of what our school aims to do, and undoes the promise we make to our students.

As a public school principal, I implore you to reject laws that discriminate against some students. It is a step backwards, and a step away from justice. Our kids deserve our support- ALL our kids.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Stern, Principal, South Portland Middle School
South Portland, Maine