

Rachel Stella

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Thank you for the opportunity to address the Judiciary Committee. My name is Rachel Stella, I reside in Portland, and I am writing to express opposition of the bills before the committee today.

I am not a policy maker, a parent, a teacher or transperson. I have had the privilege of being around many people coming into their gender expression or transition. I believe it is one of the most beautiful things to witness and consider it a gift when someone shares it with me. Witnessing people coming into their identity, understanding and accepting who they are is nothing short of a miracle.

All the efforts to hinder or halt this personal journey will do nothing to make anyone safer. It will not only be used to target trans and non-binary people, but it will target anyone who does not fit the "traditional" look of a "woman" or "man". Think for a moment how broad and vague that is. Think about all the people in your world that could fit into those categories. Then think about how many people of color, most often Black women, who have been incorrectly targeted for the same reasons. Adults and children should have their humanity questioned or threatened to play sports, to use the bathroom or to exist.

These bills are not here to help or protect anyone, they are being introduced to destroy bodily autonomy for everyone. I want to live in a place where people are allowed to explore and discover their true selves and not suffer the insecurities of people who are introducing bills to disappear trans and nonbinary people from public life.

Thank you for letting me share my perspective. I urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on these bills. Thank you.