

Clara Porter
Portland
LD 1704

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

My name is Clara Porter, I am a resident of Portland and the Director of Prevention. Action. Change., and organization committed to violence prevention, intervention, response, and healing.

I submit this testimony in opposition to the bills before the committee today.

At Prevention. Action. Change., we are frequently contracted by schools and businesses throughout the state to help them become safer and more welcoming for staff, students, and customers. One of the scenarios that comes up frequently is that of people being harassed in bathrooms over their perceived identities.

What we have heard from adults and youth who experience this discrimination is that they choose the bathroom where they have the greatest chance of avoiding harm. In the girl's/women's room they may face harassment, in the boy's/men's they may face assault. Think about that. You simply have to pee but because of persistent attitudes and assumptions around identity, you face being harassed or even assaulted in the bathroom.

We teach a range of intervention skills: from direct boundary setting, to creating a distraction, providing support, and more. But the fact remains that people of all identities should have the right to take care of basic bodily functions without the threat of harm.

As a cisgender woman, and as someone with a lifetime of teaching self-defense, I have never felt threatened by a trans person. I have only felt threatened or received harm from cisgender men. These bathroom and locker room bills protect no one. They make us all less safe and less welcoming.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote, "Ought NOT to Pass" on these bills,

Thank you.