

Testimony of Bramm Watkin
May 8, 2025

To:

Senator Anne Carney, Senator Rachel Talbot Ross, Senator David G. Haggan

*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*

Good morning Senators, Representatives, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you all for being here today to discuss this issue. My name is Bramm Watkin and I am here from Portland to speak in opposition to proposed bill LD 1002.

As I plan to be a father, it is unacceptable that this bill would do away with any child's ability to determine their own name and express their own gender identity while in a school setting.

Children need autonomy to learn to be safe community members. They need to build their own senses of self in order to be strong leaders and citizens. How children self identify within their own communities is a crucial part of self-discovery. Removing an opportunity for self understanding so core to their identity harms them--it takes away their autonomy as they form a sense of personhood and become adults.

We cannot police the ways our children self identify. We cannot stifle their own attempts at knowing themselves at such a young age. These threats to their autonomy in community spaces prime them to accept control and erasure from those who should support and guide them. Strong and resourceful students will come into their own in these classrooms and play spaces. It is up to us as adults to give them the tools to formulate strong identities on their own.

This bill is a threat to my trans family members and our children. I will not bring a child into this world if this is what those alleged to protect them do. This bill harms the next generation of citizens by removing their capacity to express themselves and find safe care in those who protect and educate them.

I urge you to not move forward with this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Bramm Watkin