

Kalisto Nanen
Cyr Plantation
LD 1704

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

My name is Kalisto Zenda Nanen, and I am a resident of Cyr Plantation, Maine. I am here today to speak in opposition to LD 1704. As a transgender individual, I know firsthand how policies like this shape the experiences of trans people, not just in school but throughout our lives.

Much has been said about safety concerns for young girls in restrooms. Yet, what is often overlooked is the safety of transgender individuals who must navigate these same spaces while facing heightened scrutiny, discomfort, and risk. Before my transition, I was one of those students who avoided the restroom for fear of harassment. Now, as an adult, I am faced with laws that dictate which bathrooms I can and cannot use based solely on my assigned sex at birth—regardless of how I present myself to the world.

How would such a law be enforced? Would individuals be required to prove their gender just to use a restroom? And if this bill were to pass, would schools introduce co-ed bathrooms, family restrooms, or additional single-stall facilities as alternatives? LD 1704 does not address these fundamental questions. Instead, it imposes restrictions that force transgender individuals into situations that can be unsafe and dehumanizing.

Bathroom access is not just about convenience—it is about dignity, privacy, and the ability to exist without fear. Trans students and adults alike deserve the right to use facilities that align with their identity and safety. This bill does not solve a problem—it creates one. I urge this committee to consider the real consequences of restricting restroom access for transgender individuals and to reject LD 1704.

Thank you for your time and consideration.